



President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

Publisher Malcolm Forbes posited that diversity is the “art of thinking independently together.” As we live and interact in an increasingly globalized world, valuing diversity as a means of developing critical thought as well as social and intellectual connections strengthens our institutional ability to adapt to rapidly changing social, educational and technological environments.

Diversity of Ideas

Over the past few weeks I have been travelling to enhance our ties to government agencies, businesses and higher education institutions outside the U.S. We have made the increased globalization of our institution a top priority, led by the [Global Education Office](#). It is crucial that we extend our intellectual reach beyond our campus boundaries and national border in order to make an impact on the world around us. These relationships create opportunities for our entire community and encourage competitive growth amongst students, faculty and other professionals. As organizations around the world continue to analyze and explore the possibilities and challenges of a fast paced global economy, UNM remains dedicated to expanding our presence in other nations. Global education is wholly beneficial, bringing new ideas and perspectives to our campus while study abroad programs allow many of our students the chance to experience cultures that differ vastly from their own and share their own perspectives to generate new ways of thinking. This rapid growth has given UNM enormous global opportunities that will benefit our students, faculty, and our state. In the coming months, we will describe potential opportunities in these weekly messages and in meetings with the faculty.

Assault Protection and Prevention

As many of you are aware, President Obama has recently announced the formation of a [White House Task Force on Protecting Students from Sexual Assault](#), which will work with universities nationally to ensure that campuses are safer. This is a great opportunity to recognize the people working hard with several departments and programs to make our community stronger and more prepared. With the help of these individuals we have implemented new procedures and strengthened existing ones to ensure that our students, staff and faculty feel safe, both on and off campus. Last year the [Sexual Assault Response Team](#) (SART) was formed to provide coordinated resources to victims of sexual assault or abuse. The [Civil Campus Council](#) was established to identify opportunities to support civility and address acts of incivility on campus with an ongoing speaker series and community partners. The [UNM Police Department](#) implemented a new online platform to optimize crime reporting which allowed an increase in police presence. These are just a few of our efforts enacted to protect everyone we serve. We will continue to research and develop new systems that allow our students and faculty to focus on research and education.

Legislative Updates

As I mentioned last week, the 2014 Legislative Session has begun and the decisions of our state's leaders will impact our entire institution. I encourage everyone to stay up to date on legislative priorities and decisions by joining the [Office of Government & Communication Relations listserv](#).

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob