



President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

Springtime is upon us. It is a time that is historically representative of renewal and growth. I realize that not all of us are able to take advantage of the time away from campus, but I hope that your spring break – whether on vacation with friends, just relaxing at home, or putting in time at work – will allow for some time to re-energize, reflect and maybe to start something new.

Sunshine All Year Long

"Trust happens when leaders are transparent, candid, and keep their word. It's that simple." – Jack Welch, American business executive, author and chemical engineer

Yesterday was the beginning of [Sunshine Week](#), a "national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information." It is crucial that we as a university encourage and maintain this transparency, from both the administrative and academic perspective. As a top-tier research institution, we expect and encourage our students to ask questions. Part of Sunshine Week is to guide the public to ask the right questions and know how to ask. Many of the participants in the events across the country have an affiliation to journalism or government, but this nationwide discussion should inspire all of us to know how our community leaders function in an open environment. As a public institution, it is also our responsibility to share information with the community. Over the past few years we have adapted many of our common practices to represent the University in a fair and honest way, and we continue to improve our processes and public communication efforts. This is reflected in the development of the UNM Sunshine portal, response to requests for information and encouraging an environment of shared information. Running a transparent and accountable university requires the diligent work of many offices and people, and I am thankful for their efforts and diligence.

UNM Graduate Programs Receive National Rankings

U.S. News & World Report released its [Best Graduate Schools rankings for 2015](#) and several UNM degree programs were among the top schools for their disciplines. Among those, the UNM School of Medicine's rural medicine program has continued to rank second since 1996, the UNM's College of Nursing's Midwifery Graduate Program ranked fifth, and our Nuclear Engineering program in the School of Engineering ranks 16th. These programs bring great recognition to graduate education at UNM, but more importantly demonstrate the exceptional educational experience offered to our graduate students to work with world-class faculty in these programs.

Student Athletes Continue to Finish Strong

Saturday was exciting for every proud Lobo fan as we watched the men's basketball team take the Mountain West Tournament title for the third consecutive year. March Madness continues with the Lobos playing Stanford in St. Louis on Friday. Our Lobo student-athletes continue to represent UNM well on the court, on the field, and on the ski slopes. Last weekend, freshman Eva Severrus won an individual national championship in the 2014 NCAA Nordic Freestyle race. Severrus' performance

helped lead the Lobo ski team to a third place finish at the [2014 NCAA Ski Championships](#). Our men's and women's indoor track and field teams recently swept the Mountain West Conference titles under the guidance of head coach Joe Franklin, who was named Mountain Region Men's and Women's Coach of the Year. Alex Kirk, Kendall Williams and Cameron Bairstow were named to the All-Tournament team for the Mountain West Tournament, and Cameron, to the pride of thousands of Lobo fans in the "Pit West," was named the MVP. The president of San Diego State University said to me "UNM fans travel en masse!" We have had many athletic triumphs this year and I wish the best of luck to coach Craig Neal and his team in the NCAA Tournament. These many accomplishments bring to mind the value of athletics for our student-athletes and to our community. With thousands of Lobo fans in the "Pit West," and in every connecting airport between Albuquerque and Las Vegas, it is important to remember that sports unite us, and create pride in UNM. Sports remind us that success is about a state of mind. Michael Jordan said: "I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." So please cheer for our Lobos this week and remember that their success contributes to the confidence of our students who go on to become our next generation of leaders.

In my own office I am proud to see the ideas and work that push us to be a stronger university. I am delighted to welcome [Amy Wohler to the Office of the President in the role of Chief of Staff](#). Amy has served UNM in many capacities over the past 15 years, including her most recent position as interim director for the UNM School for Public Administration. Her institutional knowledge and understanding our complex operations will be essential to the success of this office as we continue to advance.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob