



## President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

As we near the end of the semester, I have had more opportunities to connect with the campus community in very meaningful ways. Last Wednesday evening, Janet and I hosted a dinner at University House congratulating our Regents' Scholars. These students shared their stories, many of which would not have been possible if not for the Regents' Scholarship. Having hosted this event for two years, I have been impressed by how the Regents' Scholarships allow the most diverse students, including many from small towns in rural New Mexico, to explore our University and perform in the most extraordinary manner. This year's class includes a Rhode's semi-finalist as well as several students admitted to our medical and law school.

### Thought Leadership

Even in the midst of the Civil War, Congress and President Abraham Lincoln acknowledged the importance and recognition of those who led in discovery and innovation, and in 1863 established the National Academy of Sciences. An inventor in his own right, Lincoln understood that the drive for intellectually driven inquiry "added the fuel of interest to the fire of genius in the discovery and production of new and useful things." As producers of knowledge, both new and useful, and as an institution, we can all share in the pride of having one of our UNM faculty members elected to the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors in science. Patricia Crown, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, is now a member of the most esteemed body of national thought leaders on scientific inquiry and scholarship. [Professor Crown adds this honor](#) to a long list of accomplishments, most recently her internationally recognized research into the [prehistoric use of cacao at Chaco Canyon in New Mexico](#) and into the ritual use of a black drink by Native Americans at Cahokia. She has made great contributions to the field of Anthropology, her students, and to UNM. This honor is a reflection of the world-class scientist and educator that she is.

### UNM ranks High on International Student Barometer

One of our UNM2020 goals is to enhance the international culture of the University by bringing more international students to our campus and encouraging our domestic students to study abroad. UNM's Global Education Office (GEO) just received the survey results for the International Student Barometer (ISB), an online survey conducted by iGraduate, in which UNM participated. The survey, which reviewed 27 institutions in the US and 178 globally, allows us to benchmark the feedback from our international students across key comparison groups. The ISB tracks decision-making, expectations, perceptions and intentions of international students, from application to graduation. The rankings come as UNM had a 13 percent increase of new incoming international students, and reflect strengths in learning, living, support services arrival and overall satisfaction. With a 42 percent response rate, UNM arrival services (first night experience, housing condition, friends) ranked 2nd in the US and 7th globally. Since the fall 2012 semester, UNM has moved from 8th to 4th overall in the US, and from 50th to 32nd globally.

## Student Cabinet

Last Monday I celebrated a student's birthday over lunch at La Posada (where I ate lunch myself many years ago), and because he knew me and was able to speak candidly with me about his experiences, I was able to get some insightful perspectives on some of the issues he faces here at UNM. Sitting down with him reinforced the understanding that I need to have multiple venues for open dialogue with students to get quality input from a broader cross-section of this critical constituency. I had mentioned the creation of a Student Cabinet last week, and have already invited students to apply through Friday, May 16. I look forward to exploring continued ways in which we can enhance our understanding of one another as individuals, as an institution and as a community.

## Open Enrollment Reminder

I would like to offer a final reminder to our faculty and staff that UNM is holding a "positive enrollment" this year. This means that all current medical coverage will end on June 30, 2014, and everyone who is currently enrolled in one of UNM's medical plans will be required to re-enroll if they want continued medical coverage effective July 1, 2014. Open Enrollment for UNM's medical, dental, vision, life, long-term disability and accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance plans, continues through Wednesday, May 14.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob