



## President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

Last week I had the pleasure of joining about 60 university presidents from around the nation at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Council of Presidents' Summer Meeting. The conference had some excellent events including a presentation by the Lumina Foundation on [public university expenditures](#). This analysis was especially interesting considering the funding formula discussion at the Council of University Presidents' meeting I mentioned in the last weekly perspective.

It is difficult to give a national average of the cost and price of higher education for many reasons including different state funding models, however this paper analyzes the basic difference between the price for higher education and the institutional cost to provide it. Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) joined us to at the conference to express his concern over the federal budget deficit and its impact on American Universities. I am confident in the plans and programs in place that position UNM to continue to increase accessibility to higher education and to improve the New Mexico economy.

### **ECHOing Success**

Congratulations to Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) on a \$6.4 million grant to pilot "[Endo ECHO](#)," a program that will make complex diabetes care and specialized endocrinology more accessible. Project ECHO advances healthcare in rural and underserved communities, and is an exceptional example of innovation in healthcare services. I applaud everyone at our Health Sciences Center for your dedication to providing healthcare in every corner of our state.

### **Academic Freedom**

One of our core university values is Freedom of speech, inquiry, pursuit of ideas, and creative activity. We are given the right to challenge the status quo, to explore controversial ideas, and to innovate in unconventional ways. Spirited debate allows us to have open discussion that can lead to advancement of society. While celebrating our nation's independence this weekend, please take a moment to reflect on the importance of this value, and what it means to all of us at a personal and university level.

Have a great week, and a happy Fourth of July!

Bob