



## President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon and welcome back!

I hope that everyone enjoyed the break and is ready to jump right in to the second half of the semester.

As a research university we strive to make a difference in the world, and make discoveries for the greater good. We aim to provide services that support the educational and scientific endeavors of our students and faculty. One of the ways that we are able to succeed in this mission is through research grants. Applying for a grant is an arduous process, through which the individual or organization must prove that the grant will better the scientific and educational community, and that the organization is deserving of this funding. In addition to providing financial support, these grants are a vote of confidence in the applying organization, project or individual.

### Latin American and Iberian Institute

The UNM [Latin American & Iberian Institute \(LAI\)](#) was awarded a grant for more than \$2 Million over the next four years to “create a stimulating environment for the production and dissemination of knowledge of Latin America at UNM.” This is a distinct program at our University, and it is fantastic that the U.S. Department of Education has recognized the strength of our faculty (passing over some very distinguished competitors) with the institute and the possibilities that will come with LAI's growth. Congratulations to LAI director Susan Tiano, and all the faculty involved, in receiving this well deserved support to continue to disseminate knowledge of Latin America.

### DataONE

[DataONE: the Data Observation Network for Earth](#) is a collaboration designed to organize and distribute significant amounts of scientific data, which will support the research community and create more educational resources. A \$15 Million grant was awarded by the National Science Foundation to grow the program and become an even larger, interdisciplinary resource for research and education. Congratulations to the DataONE Principal Investigator, Bill Michener and the entire DataONE team. Dr. Michener is a UNM professor and director of e-Science Initiatives for UNM Libraries,

### Giving Back Through United Way

Philanthropy and community service are important parts of Lobo life. This is something I've said before, and will continue to reiterate because it is a message that I want to stay with you, no matter where your life takes you. The Lobo family is known for its generosity and compassion for community, just as much as we are known for our curiosity and ambition for discovery.

UNM has partnered with [United Way of Central New Mexico](#) for nearly two decades. We partner because it is an easy and important way to help our neighbors in need. The United Way Community Fund, for example, awards grants to carefully selected health and human services programs in central New Mexico. [Mission: Graduate](#), an initiative to provide the support for many New Mexico students to stay in school and move on to successful careers, is another benefactor of the United Way.

By donating, you are improving the community. You decide where your donation goes, whether it is to specific non-profits of your choice or to the Community Fund. Donations to the Community Fund help to eliminate hunger, prevent family violence, serve seniors and those homeless, disabled or ill, and do so much more.

I hope that you will [consider donating](#). Any donation you are able to make, no matter how small the amount, could mean a world of difference for our neighbors. If you already give, please consider whether you are able to increase that donation. Every contribution counts, every gift makes a difference. Thank you for your willingness to help those in need.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob