



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

Strategic Alliance for National Research Goals

Two weeks ago I wrote to you about the new [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) with Sandia National Labs](#) (SNL), which outlines goals for more collaboration and interaction between the two organizations. I want to emphasize what an outstanding opportunity this is, and talk more about the honor of this recognition.

This strategic alliance is not the first of its kind. UNM is one of five top research universities in the Sandia Alliance; the list also includes the University of Illinois, Purdue University, Georgia Institute of Technology and Arizona State University. Our institution stands out among the list because of our history with the lab, and our common goal to enhance the economy and research capabilities of New Mexico. Our proximity to the SNL campus makes it easy for us to work closer than ever with the lab to attract the best researchers, professors and students in the nation. These ties will accelerate technological discovery and advance innovation, and could lead to more job placement for our students. It will increase national security efforts. UNM, SNL and New Mexico will benefit greatly from this partnership.

Safety and Compliance Job Appointments

I am excited to announce [three new appointments](#) to the University; Robert Burford as the Clery Act Compliance Officer, Heather Cowan as the Title IX Coordinator, and Francie Cordova as the Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity.

Rob's extensive institutional knowledge and years of experience as the UNM Student Conduct Officer will serve him well as he takes on a job that is new to the University. Heather has served as the interim Title IX Coordinator and was well suited for a permanent appointment. Prior to her interim position she was the Compliance Manager for the Office of Equal Opportunity.

Francie will join us from California where she worked as a supervising attorney at the California Department of State Hospital. She spent many years prior working in New Mexico, and I am pleased to welcome her back to the Land of Enchantment.

All of these appointments are vital to us in assuring our compliance with federal regulations and, more importantly, the safety of our students. Each of these individuals were selected because of their wealth of knowledge and experience with compliance measures, and because they have shown their commitment to the students' wellbeing.

Financial Strength through Benefits

Thank you to all of our staff who went through the dependent eligibility for benefits survey this year. This was an important step in the right direction for the University. It was certainly worth the time that it took to go through the process because it will support the UNM 2020 goal of ensuring financial

integrity and strength. The findings in the eligibility verification will likely save the University more than \$550,000 over the next year, and more than \$1,270,000 over the next five years. This process allows us to continue to provide benefits to our employees and their families.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob