

March 14, 2016



## **PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE**

Good afternoon.

To our students and faculty on spring break this week, I hope you are enjoying your week off and taking advantage of this time to relax and renew.

We are continuing our work to address the budget challenges we will be facing next year and, no doubt, well into the future. One of these [challenges is the rising cost of health benefits](#). On Friday, an email was sent to all benefits eligible staff regarding the changes to the University's health benefit plans. I hope that all of our staff will take the time to read this important information about the plan modifications that UNM's Board of Regents approved this afternoon.

The number of people who attended today's Board of Regents' meeting was a testament to the commitment of the UNM community to UNM's future - to our well-being as an institution and to our well-being as individuals within this great institution. Our challenges are many, and some are truly complex. Continued engagement is encouraged, and will be critical to our success as we address our collective goals in service to our mission.

### **Spurring Economic Development**

Governor Susana Martinez and Cabinet Secretary Jon Barela came to campus today to announce a state grant designed to spur New Mexico's high tech economy. The grant will assist six start-up companies. I am proud to say that four of those companies have ties to UNM, one of which uses pressure technology developed at UNM, and three companies that stemmed from our Center for High Technology Materials.

The advancements and innovation coming from our University are truly changing the world. The research and development coming from these companies has the potential to impact millions of people, and ranges from photonics research that impacts our communications like 5G wireless capabilities, to Skinfrared cancer sensing technologies, and more. Thanks to both Gov. Martinez and Sec. Barela for recognizing the importance of this work, and supporting these companies.

### **Mountain West Championship**

I would like to congratulate our men's and women's basketball teams on playing some great games in the Mountain West Conference Championship last week. Although they did not advance to the finals, both teams played exceptionally well and represented UNM with pride.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob