



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Congratulations again to all of our Spring 2016 graduates. The Commencement Ceremonies on Friday and Saturday were a great success.

I want to thank Kyle Stepp, a graduating senior, who gave a fantastic speech to our undergrads.

Hearing stories about our graduating class always fills me with pride. We have truly inspirational students, many who have overcome major life challenges or applied their education to life in remarkable ways. If you have not yet read "[Lobos for Life - The Class of 2016](#)" in our [Newsroom](#), or the [Daily Lobo Graduation Issue](#), I encourage you to take a moment to do so.

I would also like to congratulate three individuals who received [Honorary Degrees](#) on Saturday.

Anita Bradly Pfeiffer, recipient of a Doctor of Humane Letters, is an Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies in our College of Education. For more than three decades she has served the University and the Native American educational community as a pioneering champion of bilingual and bicultural education.

V.B. Price, poet, recipient of a Doctor of Letters, is an award-winning reporter, author, and educator, among other impressive titles. In addition to teaching in our Honors Program and now in our Honors College, and in our School of Architecture and Planning, he has conveyed his vision of New Mexico as "an enlightened and empowering place of irreplaceable natural beauty, diversity and cultural magnificence."

Polly Schaafsma, recipient of a Doctor of Letters, is an archaeologist whose expertise in art history has helped her to better understand the ancient past of the Greater Southwest through Hispanic Indian rock art and kiva murals. She has made highly significant contributions to the archaeological field through her focus on worldviews and the history of indigenous religions.

These three honorees are renowned within our community and nationwide, and have had a tremendous impact on their fields and on the many individuals who follow their lead. This recognition is well deserved.

We also recognized Dr. Sajeev Arora, founder of Project Echo, with the Presidential Award of Distinction. Project ECHO was designated by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as one of the most disruptive

innovations in healthcare. Project ECHO started by Dr. Arora has spread across the world as the best way to manage complex chronic diseases.

Thank you to the University Communication and Marketing (UCAM) Newsroom team for helping to find and promote these amazing graduates and honor stories.

Peacebuilding Education

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."

- Albert Einstein

On Sunday, May 22, everyone is invited to an event at 3 p.m. at the Duck Pond to celebrate UNM's [Peace Studies Program](#) becoming the [world's first peace studies program to be designated a Peace-Blossom](#). Our Peace Studies Program promotes ways to connect the innately innovative nature of our students to real world applications, so that they may truly change the world for the better. Congratulations to Dr. Jamal Martin, director of Peace Studies, and everyone who supports this noble academic program.

40 Under Forty

In April, 40 individuals were honored by [Albuquerque Business First](#) as the New Mexico's top young professionals in 2016. It came as no surprise to me that a handful of the honorees are our own Lobo professionals. Congratulations to five UNM staff and faculty making the list.

- Meriah Heredia-Griego, Center for Education Policy Research, Director
- Manuel Montoya, UNM Anderson School of Management, Assistant Professor
- Rosalyn Nguyen, Office of University Counsel, Associate University Counsel
- Dawinder Sidhu, UNM School of Law, Associate Professor
- Aimee Smidt, UNM School of Medicine, Assistant Professor

Go Lobos!

Bob