

I am pleased to announce that The University of New Mexico and the U.S. Department of Justice have signed a formal agreement outlining UNM's obligations to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and sexual violence on campus. This three-year commitment is the conclusion of a lengthy DOJ review of our policies and procedures. However, the agreement is not an ending; it is a beginning. It is an opportunity to clear obstacles from our path and to move forward together to make this campus a caring and safe educational environment with fair processes for all.

The DOJ investigation and the work that has been done all over campus to achieve an agreement have been challenging, but it has made us stronger. It required that we take a critical look at our practices and take the time to listen to our campus community on the impact of those practices. The report this past spring highlighted where we were not doing enough, where we should have acted sooner, where people—our own students and employees—have been hurt and the moments when we weren't there for them. For that, I am deeply sorry. We will do better, and this agreement is a road map that will lead us for years to come.

I value the work of the DOJ and the resulting agreement, which articulates the goals that will greatly improve our campus culture and climate, and will help the UNM community better understand the broader effects of sexual misconduct. This is a problem that first and foremost impacts victims, but that also ripples across our entire campus and into our community, and can inhibit the educational process we hold so dear if it is not properly addressed. We must all work together to improve how we think and how we respond so that we are able to protect and care for those who experience sexual violence or harassment.

With the guidance of this agreement, we will more responsively and sensitively meet the needs of victims, better train our campus in prevention and reporting, and investigate and discipline in a timely manner. In order to attain these goals, we rely on and invite the continued involvement of students, staff, faculty, and community members. While we may not be able to completely prevent sexual violence or harassment that affects our campus, together we can change our attitudes and our actions, which will change UNM for the better.

Best regards,



Robert G. Frank  
President