



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

Three weeks into the semester, it seems like everyone is getting settled and into a spring routine. To all of our students, now is the time to get ahead, and set yourself up for success. Whether this is your first semester, or your last, you know that the pace -assignments, presentations, finals and workload- will increase from here on, so I urge you to plan effectively and take this opportunity to make the end of the semester easier on yourself.

Pilgrim & Associates Press Presentation

Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend the [presentation made by Pilgrim & Associates](#) last week regarding UNM's efforts to address sexual misconduct based on the sexual violence climate assessment they conducted last fall. As I said when I addressed the audience, and have stated numerous times before, the safety of our students is of the utmost importance. Jill Pilgrim and her team are experts in the subject matter, and gave us a valuable third party, objective analysis.

Like many of you, my wife and I live here on campus. This is not just about a place, but about our neighborhood and our community. Over the past year, the University has taken a number of internal steps to address the issues associated with sexual violence, and ensure a fair process is afforded to everyone.

I also want to thank those who stayed to participate in the town hall following the presentation, moderated by our student government leaders. Improving the safety of our campus requires the work and knowledge of everyone in the community. Insights from our students, staff and faculty, whether positive or negative, help University leaders implement change and strengthen the programs that prove to be successful.

As the Pilgrim report states, compared to other institutions of higher education, we are ahead of the curve in many areas. The UNM campus is a safe one, and we want to build on the successful initiatives that have been implemented. By streamlining our policies and procedures mentioned in the report recommendations, we will provide a better, more universal resource for any students to report or address any incident that occurs.

The Pilgrim & Associates report mentioned our policies and procedures repeatedly. Many of these policies are already being revised, and we will continue to improve them so we can be more efficient and effective.

Our many progressive efforts, this study and this forum are all pieces to a holistic approach to what is being faced and addressed by colleges and universities across the nation. At UNM we are working hard to protect and inform our students, staff and faculty, and increase accountability across the board.

To get the latest information, please check the [LoboRESPECT website](#).

Lobo Reading Experience

For the past four years, the [Lobo Reading Experience](#) has engaged students, staff and faculty in a program that sparks academic discussion across all disciplines. Each year a book is selected for the Lobo community to read and integrate into the academic year. The Lobo Reading Experience Committee is now asking for votes to determine the 2015 book. [Students and staff can vote](#) on the three nominated books between now and Tuesday, Feb. 3. [Faculty can vote](#) as well, and are invited to provide input on how the selected book might be incorporated into the classroom.

Big Brother Big Sister Mentorship

The road to college begins long before an application or acceptance letter. It starts when young men and women make the decision to follow their passion in higher education. One program that works to increase the number of students who pursue career goals is the Big Brother Big Sister Mentor2.0 program. This program matches freshmen and sophomores with industry professionals for guidance. Thanks to all of the volunteers involved, more than 300 students have been matched with a mentor to involved in occupations such as business, education, engineering and more.

Thank you to all of the UNM employees who have volunteered for such a beneficial cause. More volunteers come from UNM than any other employer, which speaks to our employees' dedication to the education of young people outside of their daily responsibilities. I hope that more of you will consider [joining the program](#).

Have a great week and go Lobos!

Bob