



President's Weekly Perspective

“Teachers, I believe, are the most responsible and important members of society because their professional efforts affect the fate of the earth.” - Helen Caldicott

Good afternoon.

Some of you may know of [Sonya Romero](#), the Albuquerque teacher at Lew Wallace Elementary whose big heart and dedication to her students inspired a local story, that went on to the Washington Post, and then [caught the attention of Ellen DeGeneres](#). Her attitude is remarkable and I think this story is one of the most touching examples of how powerful a teacher's impact on children can be.

Sonya is a two-time UNM alumna, and will be returning to UNM to pursue her Ph.D. in the fall. I am proud to say that she is a part of the Lobo family, because she certainly represents us well to every person she meets. For those of you who have not watched the video or [read her story](#), please do.

Just before the semester ended I received an email from a student finishing her first year at UNM about an outstanding graduate assistant instructor, Gabriela Morales. The student wrote that Gabriela should be “recognized for her phenomenal teaching skills,” because she “could not help but show the same amount of appreciation that [Gabriela] does when she teaches.”

To Gabriela, thank you for your commitment to our students. It is a reminder that exceptional teaching can inspire students to become passionate about education. And to student Caley Skroch, thank you for writing to me. It was great to end this semester on such a high note.

Bettering our community and society through education is at the heart of everything we do. To all of our faculty and staff, your role at UNM is more than you might think it is. No matter your position, whether you instruct students every day or facilitate department operations, help students navigate degree paths or maintain campus facilities, you change lives by encouraging educational advancement. Thank you for all that you do.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob