



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

Gearing Up for Fall

It's hard to believe we are only one week away from the fall semester. Two weeks ago I stopped by new student orientation and had the pleasure of speaking briefly to a room full of incoming freshmen. It is always great to see eager new Lobos. I look forward to seeing campus buzzing again with the thousands of students living and learning here.

I am also very pleased to welcome all of our new faculty members. UNM boasts a top-notch faculty, and it gets better each year with incoming professors and professionals who expand our knowledge. Tonight, I will meet many of the new faculty members at the reception following their UNM orientation. I would like to thank the outstanding staff at the Center for Teaching Excellence for coordinating the New Faculty Orientation to help this group of scholars, as they become a part of an exceptional team of educators.

Campus Living

Living on campus is one part of the college experience that I wish that every student could have. It increases the sense of community, and provides additional resources to help students succeed. On Friday I toured almost all of the dorms on campus, some of which I had not been in since I lived on campus during my undergraduate years. A lot of work goes into building improvements as well as educational programming for students living in each housing community. I wish the luxuries that come with on-campus housing today were available 40 years ago. Nevertheless, I want to thank all of the individuals who work so hard to make sure that living on campus is fun, accommodating and beneficial to all of our student residents.

Statewide Higher Education Partners

Last week I met with other presidents, provosts and government relation's professionals from our higher education counterparts throughout the state for the Council of University Presidents Retreat. Each institution works for continued improvements in student success, and we all look great in different ways. It is encouraging to know that New Mexico public universities are doing well, and that we have great statewide partners in supporting common higher education priorities.

Engineering Diversity

Diversity is a key value to all of us at UNM, and our staff and faculty work hard to support a diverse student body and diversity of ideas in many ways. One area of study that has been recognized nationwide as needing an increase in diverse representation is the engineering field. I would like to call out School of Engineering Dean Joe Cecchi who represented UNM at the White House last week as he reiterated the school's commitment to increasing opportunities for women and underrepresented groups who wish to pursue careers in the field. Dean Cecchi was one of more than 100 deans to sign the [American Society for Engineering Education \(ASEE\) Engineering Deans' Council Initiative letter](#).

Political Expert

Many UNM professors serve as experts in their fields, providing guidance and opinions that lead to significant change in areas like research and social justice. One prolific example is Gabriel Sanchez, whose expert report was cited in a decision made by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals last week. The Court found that the Texas voter ID law violates the Voting Rights Act, a decision that was based in part on the findings of a statewide survey conducted by Associate Professor Sanchez and his colleague Matt Barreto. This research and testimony will impact many lives, and I am proud to say that a Lobo scholar is at the forefront.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob