



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon and welcome to the UNM Fall 2015 semester!

The energy at UNM this week is exciting, and something we only see once a year, when the fall semester begins. Campus is packed with new and returning Lobos, and there are numerous events throughout the month to get everyone involved and build a strong momentum for the start of the academic session.

Last week, I had the pleasure of speaking with many of our new faculty members after their orientation, and yesterday, I joined hundreds of freshmen and their families at Freshman Convocation. ASUNM President Jenna Hagengruber and Student Regent Ryan Berryman delivered fantastic speeches with some advice that I want to share with all our students. Ryan reminded students to get involved, and to seek these opportunities out because the student organizations, teams and clubs will not come to you. Be your own leader and make more opportunities for yourself. Jenna pointed out that college is a lot like football. You may be a great player, but you will only win with a great team, so choose your teammates wisely and give it your all.

I hope that the class of 2019 takes something from each of the speakers yesterday, and is prepared for an exhilarating new experience at UNM. I would like to give another nod to everyone who helped bring our new Lobos to campus and get them acclimated for their time at UNM. And a special thanks to the Office of the Secretary, the Student Activities Center and all of the volunteers who make [Freshman Family Day](#) possible.

To all of our students, remember to take advantage of everything happening this week during [Welcome Back Days](#). If the Duck Pond is not on your way to or from a class, I encourage you to make it a point to go there to get information about student organizations, resource centers, departments and organizations, all of which are here to help you succeed and make the most of your time at UNM. It's worth the walk just for the pizza, ice cream and other food and treats that will be given out each day. I know the green chile stew that will be served on Wednesday is always a hit.

As a father myself, I feel it is necessary to remind all of our students the importance of campus safety. There are a lot of fun events going on, and I know that many of you are adjusting to what might be your first experience on a college campus. Last year, the [LoboRESPECT](#) initiative began as an effort to prevent sexual violence at UNM. The new [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#) will soon open. The LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center is a single stop resource that students can visit for help when facing sexual violence and other student safety issues. I know that this will be a critical resource for the campus. Although the physical space is not yet ready, the Center is active and ready to help students in need. You can get more information at advocacy.unm.edu. Thank you to the Director of LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, Lisa Lindquist, Dean of Students Tomas Aguirre, and all of the staff and faculty who have made the creation of this center possible.

Have a great first week of the semester and Go Lobos!

Bob