



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

"Each time we see one of these mass shootings, our thoughts and prayers are not enough. It's not enough. It does not capture the heartache and grief and anger that we should feel. It does nothing to prevent this carnage from being inflicted someplace else in America."

– President Barack Obama in response to the October 1 shooting at Umpqua Community College.

I write in my weekly message often about campus safety. It is important for our entire community to be aware of emergency procedures, new safety tools available, and everything that the University is doing to keep its community safe. I know that at some point even the phrase "campus safety" may begin to sound like a broken record. It can start to lose meaning or attention. I am writing this to ask you to not let that happen.

I am sure that most of you are aware of the tragic shooting last Thursday at Umpqua Community College in Oregon. For those who are not aware, I'm sure you can learn about it from almost every news outlet. One of the most upsetting things reported about this tragedy is that there were warnings, and that online chats encouraged the events. If you are ever concerned about the safety of yourself or others, speak to someone at the [UNM Police Department](#).

The University's safety efforts are more effective when we are all informed and ready to act. I'm asking you to be aware of what is around you, and to help keep your friends, peers, teachers, students, advisors, co-workers and all fellow Lobos safe. Make yourself familiar with the [UNM Campus Safety website](#), know your dorm, office or classroom emergency plans, and download the [LoboGuardian app](#) to get more information.

United Way Campaign Kick Off

Part of what makes The University of New Mexico a great place to live, work, and study is our community spirit, our genuine concern for our neighbors, and our willingness to help those in need; it's what we do every day. I am very proud to be part of such a caring, committed, and giving team.

The partnership we have with [United Way of Central New Mexico](#) is another way we give back to our community and help those in need. Charitable giving is a personal decision and your participation in the United Way campaign is optional. I would, however, like to say thank you. With your help we raised more than \$950,000 for United Way in 2014. We appreciate all of the generous contributions made last year, and are encouraging all our staff and faculty to participate this year. Every contribution counts, every gift makes a difference. Thank you for your continued support.

The United Way Campaign began October 1 and runs through November 19. There will be a Donut Kick-Off at Hodgin Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 7 from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Awarding Excellence

Our Alumni Association recently announced the [recipients of the 2015 Lobo, Zia and Inspirational Young Alumnus awards](#). Gilbert V. Herrera received the Lobo Award for his professional achievement and work with the Laboratory for Physical Sciences (LPS) a National Security Agency (NSA) research institute, as well as Sandia National Laboratories. The Young Alumnus Award recipient is Jeffrey Anderson, who is a founding Artistic Director of [Blackout Theatre](#) and has made an exceptional impact through other theatre organizations including Children's Choice. The Zia Awards honoring outstanding alumni who make their home in New Mexico went to Cynthia Arndell, Bette Jo Sisneros-Ciesielski, Kirk Gittings, Rene Matison, Frank McCulloch and Coleman Travelstead. Congratulations to all of our outstanding alumni award winners.

The UNM Communication and Journalism Department received an exceptional honor last week when its [New Mexico News Port](#), a student journalism lab, [won the "Challenge Fund for Innovation in Journalism Education"](#) from the Online News Association. The News Port will receive the \$10,000 grand prize. This recognition shows that we hold our own among the leading journalism schools in the nation. Congratulations to everyone involved with the News Port, and to its founding Professor of Practice in Journalism, Michael Marcotte.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our Lobo Football Team on excellent game and the [fourth consecutive win against the Aggies](#).

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob