



## President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

### Student Success

I would like to start this week by congratulating [Rhodes Scholarship finalist Katarina Pacheco](#), BAMD student and Honors minor. This prestigious scholarship, which provides full financial support to study for a degree at Oxford University, is granted to only 32 US students each year. The scholars are selected based on their commitment to community, academic achievements and leadership potential. Given her long list of her accomplishments, it is no wonder why Katarina has caught the attention of the scholarly organization. I wish her the best as she interviews for the final selection of this competitive process.

I want to share some news of a recent alumna who also caught my attention this week. Alexandra Steward, International Studies and Honors minor class of 2015, received [top honors in the 2015 Elie Wiesel Foundation Prize in Ethics essay contest](#). Alexandra is the first UNM graduate to receive this honor. Her essay, "The Ethics of Transcendence" ties a personal story to "the difference between opinion and humanity," and is available to [read online](#).

### Alumni Association Leadership

Welcome to [Dana Allen, our new vice president of Alumni Relations](#) and executive director of the Alumni Association. Dana will begin working at the University in the new year, and I am excited to see what she will bring to the table in this critical role. Her experience in alumni office roles, most recently the assistant vice president for Alumni Relations and executive director of the Alumni Association at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., will serve her well. Our alumni are critical to the success of UNM. Dana received strong support from the search committee members, including leaders of the Alumni Association, the UNM Foundation, students, faculty and administrators. Dana will have big shoes to fill, but I am confident she can tie the laces tightly and start off running! Welcome to the Lobo family, Dana.

### United Way Giving Campaign

We are well into our [United Way giving campaign](#), and I am pleased to see that the University has already donated more than \$400,000. This is an excellent start, and we still have two weeks to pledge. United Way makes a difference in the lives of people in our community. UNM has a great record of supporting this link to Albuquerque's most important caring organizations.

I want to recognize [Student United Way](#), a student run organization that connects students with service projects in the community, for rallying to support the campaign. The student group was in the SUB Atrium last week informing the community of their philanthropic reach and the UNM campaign.

United Way through UNM allows you to make contributions from each paycheck, and choose the nonprofit organizations you wish to support. Even a \$5 per pay period donation can make a great difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors. Please consider giving in this meaningful way. The UNM United Way Campaign runs through Thursday, Nov. 19.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob