



## President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

I spent the weekend among many of my colleagues at the Association of Land Grant and Public Universities (APLU) annual meeting. As you may expect, many conversations mentioned recent distressing events across U.S. college campuses, and we especially focused on the devastating tragedy in Paris. We talked about the duty and opportunities we have at universities to anchor ourselves to our shared values of inclusivity, compassion and respect, and to balance them with critical thought. This begins, and never ends, with active listening and respectful dialog so that we may understand, shape and improve our individual and collective cultures. One of our [students studying abroad in Chambéry, France](#) shared a personal window into her experience this weekend, and the ripple effect felt by these tragic events.

### Town Hall Discussion

I'd like to thank all of you who came to our informal [Town Hall](#) this past Friday. Provost Abdallah and Associate Vice Presidents Andrew Cullen and Associate Vice President Terry Babbitt joined me to address your questions and concerns about UNM's budget. It was a lively discussion and very helpful for me. Every opportunity for dialog enhances our ability to face our challenges, so I am looking forward to continuing this series of events. For a recording of the town hall and accompanying slide show presentation, click [here](#).

### International Education Week

This week, the Global Education Office (GEO) is highlighting the value of international education experiences by encouraging Lobos to study abroad. [International Education Week \(IEW\)](#) events began today with a Study Abroad Fair in the Student Union Building Atrium. GEO provided free passport photos and information on obtaining a passport.

GEO also hosted an International Dessert Competition in the Atrium today, highlighting the talents and cultures of some of our international students on campus. UNM is home to a diverse population of international students and scholars, representing 99 countries, who bring their unique global perspectives into our classrooms. Later in the week, the Geography Department will host [GIS Day](#) and author Sherry Mueller will give a presentation on careers in international education.

The IEW events celebrate the diversity of our international students and scholars on campus, and promote cross-cultural understanding and global perspectives on a variety of topics hosted by our academic departments. When it comes to international study programs, students have more than 200 programs to choose from, including several short-term faculty-led programs. GEO and our faculty have made study abroad opportunities more accessible to our students. In the last year alone, study abroad participation increased by 19 percent. Since the 2012/2013 academic year, it has increased by over 55 percent. Congratulations to all of you who have worked to provide these life-changing experiences for our students.

## Great American Smokeout

As I mentioned in my Weekly Perspective on Sept. 14, a Smoke- and Tobacco-Free Task Force is reviewing our campus [Tobacco-Free Campus Policy](#). This task force will bring the [Great American Smokeout](#) campaign to UNM this Thursday, Nov. 19. The campaign focuses on encouraging people who use tobacco to try and stop for just one day, in the hope that this will spark larger lifestyle changes. This Thursday, members of the task force will be handing out designated smoking area campus maps along with educational materials. Many thanks to the task force for helping us focus on our health and well-being!

## A Thank You for Giving

UNM's Employee Health Program is working to maintain our health and help others. They set out again this year to collect Halloween candy to send to American troops overseas. I was thrilled to see an email last week stating that the program collected more than 1,000 pounds of candy and other donations for [Operation Gratitude](#). Thank you to everyone who contributed. This drive is one of many held at UNM throughout the year, and is a great example of how simple donations might make a world of difference to someone. What Operation Gratitude, [United Way](#), Lobo Food Pantry, LoboThon and many other charity initiatives have in common is connecting our caring and generous Lobo community with organizations and individuals who need support, whether it is financial, through donated goods or in volunteer hours. Thank you to all of our giving community members, and those who bring these charity events and drives to campus.

## Athletic Success

Congratulations to our student athletes on a successful weekend. Men's Basketball came out on top with two wins, against Texas Southern University on Friday and New Mexico State University in the [Rio Grande Rivalry](#) on Sunday. Women's Basketball won their game against Houston Baptist University on Friday at WisePies Arena. Women's Volleyball beat Fresno State in an away game on Saturday. Our #1 ranked Women's Cross Country team qualified for the [NCAA National Championships](#) in Louisville this Saturday, Nov. 21. Our football team had a fantastic win against Boise State, which makes the Lobos bowl eligible at 6-4 and moves us one step closer to the Mountain West Football Championship game in December. I hope all of you will turn out for Saturday's game against Colorado State at 3:30 p.m. and on Nov. 28 when we host Air Force at 8:15 p.m. We have the opportunity to make a huge impact as fans with home field advantage!

Have a great week, and Go Lobos!

Bob