



## President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

What a wonderful weekend full of celebration and excitement! Thank you again to the members of the Mortar Board, students and staff who set up and led the [Hanging of the Greens](#) festivities on Friday. This seemed to be the largest crowd I have seen at the event. I was pleased to see hundreds of bright faces enjoying this authentic community celebration.

I hope that many of our students were able to attend the annual Late Night Breakfast last night. I heard there was also a great turn out for this event, which is hosted each semester by the Student Union Building as a kick off to finals week. It's hard to make studying for finals exciting, but the SUB does it right every time. Thank you to everyone who makes this event possible, including the [Center for Academic Program Support \(CAPS\)](#), who worked late Sunday night tutoring students.

This is a stressful time of year, and I know how hard all of our students are working right now to finish the semester strong. Fortunately, all of the studying will pay off. To everyone who will be completing classes this week, hang in there for a couple of days, then take pride in one more successful semester.

### Graduation

Students, I will see many of you at the end of this week for [Commencement](#), and would like congratulate you in advance. Some of you may have already completed your courses, others may be finishing projects or studying diligently for the last time in your college careers. As you walk across the stage at your commencement ceremony, hold your head high knowing that you have reached an extraordinary milestone accomplishment.

The Graduate Commencement Ceremony is Thursday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m., with the keynote address delivered by Dr. Paul Hommert, former director of Sandia National Labs. I have no doubt that Dr. Hommert, whose professional career in federal laboratories has received national recognition, will motivate our masters and professional graduates.

The Undergraduate Ceremony will be held Friday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m., with keynote speaker Dr. Manuel Montoya. As a Lobo alumnus, Rhodes Scholar and current professor at Anderson School of Management, Dr. Montoya can attest to the opportunities that come with a UNM degree. He has not only sparked fires in his own life, but does so in those of his students. I hope that his message will inspire our new graduates in the same way. Both ceremonies will be in WisePies Arena aka The Pit.

I would also like to recognize the recipients of the [Presidential Medallion Award, Dr. Patricia Crown and Dr. Jeffrey Brinker](#). Both are outstanding faculty members who have drawn international attention for work in their respective fields. Dr. Crown's anthropological discoveries have led to her induction into the National Academy of Sciences, among other notable achievements. Dr. Brinker has some of

the highest honors in the chemical and biological engineering materials research field. Both of these esteemed members of our academic community will be honored for their commitment to research and teaching during the Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony.

### **Premium Holiday for December 2015**

Here's the best news this month for employees: Medical premiums will not be deducted from December paycheck(s). The premium holiday applies to active employees enrolled in UNM's medical coverage as of Dec. 1, 2015. Bi-weekly paid employees will see the premium holiday on their Dec. 4 and 18 paychecks. Monthly paid employees will see the premium holiday on their Dec. 22 paycheck. Questions may be directed to the HR Service Center at 505-277-MyHR (6947). Happy Holiday!

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob