



## President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon!

### UNM Day at the Capitol

Today was a great day for UNM at the Round House in Santa Fe, where we showcased many of the programs and units that impact our state. Each year we are allotted one day to represent our institution during the Legislative Session, so we exhibit our distinct contributions to the state we serve. While our Government and Community Relations team works closely with legislators and state officials, our students, staff and faculty speak about their work and role with the institution to capital staff and visitors. Thank you to everyone who took the time today to come to Santa Fe for this great event.

### Research and Teaching Excellence

I want to call out a few of our faculty members whose outstanding accolades were brought to my attention last week. UNM professor of history, Timothy Graham, has received the [2016 Award for Excellence in Teaching](#) by the Medieval Academy of America Committee on Centers and Regional Associations (CARA). This award not only recognizes his dedication to the field, but his ability to motivate his students. He inspires his students to become passionate researchers, and that is what makes him a remarkable instructor.

For researchers, having your work read and cited frequently demonstrates the value and quality of your efforts. I would like to congratulate two faculty members who were listed in the Thomson Reuters ["Highly Cited Researchers" 2015 list](#). Vince Calhoun, Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has contributed complex data sets, including recent studies with developing adolescent brains. Xuexian Yang, assistant professor of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, focuses on cells and their function in inflammatory diseases. These honors highlight the quality of our faculty and the research conducted here at UNM.

### Alternative Spring Break

Every year since 2011, Lobos have traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana for the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) Program. ASB is a chance for students to give back to the greater community by working alongside [Camp Restore](#), an organization that helps rebuild houses for those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

This program is a service-learning opportunity for UNM students, who will participate in community engagement projects in areas still feeling the effect of this devastating hurricane. During the trip, students will develop and use skills in the areas of home-building, teamwork and leadership. They will also have opportunities to visit historical sites, learn about the culture and enjoy great food.

The deadline to [apply for the program](#) is Friday, Jan. 29 at 5p.m. Students with questions should contact Anna Trujillo at [atrillo@unm.edu](mailto:atrillo@unm.edu).

## Employee Health Initiatives

Human Resources is presenting several initiatives focused on the health of all UNM employees. I would like to call out two such efforts that might entice some people to keep health top-of-mind. Employee Health Promotion [Lifesteps Weight Management Program](#) has an orientation event scheduled on central campus for this Thursday, Jan. 28, and north campus Wednesday, Jan. 27. Additionally, a [Jackpot Weight Loss Challenge](#) will kick off next Monday, Feb. 1.

## Remembering Markel Byrd

Janet and I attended a [celebration of life for Markel Byrd](#) yesterday in the SUB. The sophomore, Lobo football player died in a car accident on his way home to San Diego for the winter break. The death of this [dedicated student-athlete](#) was a tragic loss. To see his family, friends and teammates at the celebration yesterday was truly uplifting. Markel made a great impression on our community, and will live on through his teammates and fellow students. Thank you to the Student Activities Center, Student Union Building, Copper Pointe Church and Lobo Football, especially Director of Football Operations Brian DeSpain for arranging this celebration.

Have a great week, and Go Lobos!

Bob