



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

First-Year Student Advocate Awardee

The first year studying at a university can be intimidating and overwhelming to some students. There are certain challenges that must be addressed vigilantly, and we do all we can to ensure that our first-year students have the support they need to succeed at UNM. It takes work and creativity to find solutions to the problems they may face.

I am pleased to congratulate [University College Associate Dean Sonia Rankin](#), who has been recognized nationally for her dedication to students in their first year at UNM. Dr. Rankin received an outstanding first-year student advocate award from the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition at the University of South Carolina and Cengage Learning. This is an outstanding honor that, as University College and Honors College Dean Kate Krause pointed out “shines a very favorable light on UNM.” It is thanks to Dr. Rankin, and faculty and staff like her, that our first-year retention and success rates continue to improve each year.

Celebrating Black History Month

Saturday the Africana Studies Program kicked off [Black History Month](#) with its 31st annual brunch. The event, which featured Freeman A. Hrabowski, president, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, was a great success. Thank you to Africana Studies for arranging this event, and bringing such an esteemed leader like President Hrabowski to speak on our campus. I hope that it inspired many in our community to celebrate, and perhaps learn more about, Black history and how it shaped our country.

Battle of I-25 Blood Drive Kick Off

The third annual UNM vs NMSU [blood drive competition](#) kicked off today and will run through the end of the week. The drive, organized by [ASUNM Community Experience](#), is a friendly competition that puts our Rio Grande Rivalry to a good cause, giving a resource that can save lives. So, let's beat the Aggies at giving!

United Blood Services will be collecting blood donations in SUB Ballrooms A & B today through Friday, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Bloodmobiles will also be located by near Biology & North Campus Pathology buildings. For those who can, please consider donating.

Emergency Alerts and Advisories

Tomorrow morning, the University will be testing [emergency notification systems](#) as well as the siren. The test is a routine activity to make sure that our alert systems are working properly and ready in case of a real emergency. If you do not receive a notification via text or email, please go to the [LoboAlerts website](#) and make sure that your contact information is correct. This messaging tool is one of the best and quickest ways to notify the campus community of critical situations. LoboAlerts notify the campus

of an immediate emergency, while LoboAdvisories send information about potentially dangerous situations. Emergency management and preparedness is a large concern on any campus. I would like to thank the University Emergency Manager Byron Piatt, Clery Compliance Officer Rob Burford and all staff working to keep UNM emergency ready.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob