



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

UNM on Capitol Hill

I spent most of last week in Washington, D.C. speaking with our federal delegates and other U.S. leaders about UNM's role nationwide. Each spring, several UNM representatives come to the Capitol to speak about initiatives and programs we maintain that spur positive change across the U.S. A few of our strategic efforts include Native American's access to healthcare careers, high energy density physics, photonics, and global and national security research and education programs. These are just a few of the initiatives we are requesting federal support. We work closely with government leaders because, with their backing, UNM can impact millions of lives.

I am pleased to say that many of the UNM initiatives discussed, such as Innovate ABQ and various research programs, were applauded by our federal representatives. It is important that our Washington leaders realize and capitalize on the opportunities that our institution can offer.

These personal interactions are vital as we discuss the future of our institution and our nation. It was a particularly great pleasure to sit down with UNM alumna and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Karen Guice, who is working with the Department of Defense on the implementation of Project Echo at DoD installations around the globe. To really top off the week, however, was our annual Capitol Hill reception alumni event. More than 100 people attended the event, including UNM Alumni Board of Directors President Ann Rhoades and Alumni Relations Vice President Dana Allen, Board members Judy Zanotti and Terri Salazar, and many other influential Lobos, making the alumni event a tremendous success.

Campus Leadership Opportunity

Every year, New Student Orientation Leaders assist hundreds of incoming freshman and transfer students in their transition into UNM. They introduce new Lobos and their families to our campus, and present on a wide variety of topics including academics, student involvement, housing options, and more. Most importantly, they leave one of the most memorable impressions a new student receives when joining our community.

The Dean of Students Office is looking for students who are passionate about UNM and want to make a positive impact. If you are looking for a leadership position this summer, and are interested in helping to usher in the next class of Lobos, please consider this outstanding opportunity. To learn more about the Leader positions, visit nso.unm.edu and attend a [New Student Orientation Leader](#) Information Session.

Be Kind UNM

Last week, Student Affairs, along with the UNM BeKind committee, kicked off the UNM [Random Acts of Kindness Celebration](#), a two-week initiative that coincides with the National Random Acts of Kindness effort February 3-17. There are still [numerous events](#) planned this week, which I am sure will brighten the days of many Lobos.

In a time when tensions are high, and there seems to be a lot of stress in the world, this push for positivity and kindness could not be more welcome. Even if you cannot participate in one of the events scheduled, please keep this kindness celebration at the top of your mind. Do something for great for a stranger or friend, and inspire compassion in the lives of those around you.

Thank you to everyone who worked to plan these events, especially the UNM BeKind Committee, and to Satellite Coffee and Nusenda Credit Union, who sponsored the [Fill It Forward](#) event.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob