



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Over the past several years, our students, staff and faculty have worked diligently to find ways to better prevent and respond to campus sexual assaults. Through these efforts, some outstanding resources and programs were established to better serve our community. One of the most visible examples of this work is the LoboRESPECT initiative.

I've written about the [LoboRESPECT](#) in several of my messages to you over the past two years. I know that many of you are well aware of the resources that this initiative has enhanced and developed. Even so, it is imperative that more people are educated about the program, and the [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#), to keep it top of mind.

We have a responsibility to protect our students and our community, so that we can continue our mission of education, research healthcare and community service. At the administrative level, we will continue to streamline our processes and policies. At a community level, it is critical that each person on this campus be aware of the resources available to serve students affected by sexual assault, and the ways to prevent assault situations.

On Friday, the [Department of Justice](#) released its findings following a review of our policies and procedures in response to campus sexual assault. UNM is not alone in trying to deal with one of the most difficult problems on today's college campuses. While we respect the efforts of the DOJ, we believe its report is an inaccurate and incomplete picture of our university. It is a brief snapshot in time that came on the heels of a high profile and widely publicized accusation of a sexual assault involving UNM students. Even so, we receive it in a spirit of cooperation and pledge to continue our campus wide improvements to combat this complex issue. The report shows room for improvement, although the DOJ did acknowledge the significant improvements over the past 16 months in addressing the complex issue.

We will never stop working with our community to examine and implement better ways to improve safety, protect students, and maximize the benefits of an education at UNM.

UNM Receives Top Defense Security Service Award

This morning, UNM became the third university to receive the [DSS "Excellence in Counterintelligence" award](#). This award was created to honor a cleared contractor that best demonstrates the ability to stop foreign theft of U.S. defense technology. UNM faculty and graduate students perform vital research with defense partners like our national laboratories to advance and translate technology innovations. Special thanks

and recognition to Deb Kudis for her strong commitment and working relationships with our faculty and partners.

Cherry and Silver Screen

Some of the greatest lessons for our students happen when the real world comes into the classroom. There are numerous faculty here who work with others in their industry, outside of the University, making it possible to bring perspectives from beyond institutional boundaries into the curriculum.

This is epitomized in the Department of Cinematic Arts, where film director Matthew McDuffie also has the distinction of Professor of Practice. His most recent film, [Burning Bodhi](#), is scheduled for digital release tomorrow. Congratulations to Professor McDuffie. It is truly representative of a UNM education that he has been able to share his wisdom and the experience of writing and directing the film with students who are longing to work in the film industry.

Bob