



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Good luck to all of our students, working diligently this week to finish papers, projects, exams and presentations to wrap up another semester. This is certainly a challenging time of year for students, faculty and staff alike, but soon we will be able to breathe easier and move onto new endeavors.

More than 3,800 students will graduate this month, and more than 1,000 of those students will walk in [commencement ceremonies this weekend](#). This is an exciting time for all Lobo graduates and their friends and families who have supported them along the way.

To every graduate, congratulations! You are now a part of the [UNM Alumni Association](#), a community that promotes the spirit of Lobo life and the excellence of The University of New Mexico worldwide. Be sure to mark your calendars for the [New Grad Wine and Cheese Reception](#) this Thursday evening at Hodgin Hall.

The Spring 2016 commencement speakers have been selected to address our graduates this year because they exemplify two facets of Lobo excellence.

Dr. Joel DeLisa will speak at the Graduate and Professional Commencement Ceremony on Friday evening. In addition to teaching at UNM, Dr. DeLisa is an experienced psychiatrist and member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, which is considered one of the highest professional honors among the various prestigious awards for scientists, engineers and health professionals. We are fortunate to have Dr. DeLisa at UNM, and we look forward to his comments to the graduate and professional Class of 2016.

On Saturday, Kyle Stepp will be speaking to the undergraduate Class of 2016. I believe that Kyle, who will also receive his degree at the ceremony, represents the true meaning of Lobo strong. For those of you who know him, you know that he has overcome a great deal, and now serves as a catalyst for change everywhere. He was voted the 2015 UNM Homecoming King, and named 2016 Greek Man of the Year and 2016 UNM Clauve Outstanding Senior Awardee.

I have no doubt that both [commencement ceremonies](#) will be an inspirational springboard for our soon-to-be newest alumni.

I would also like to congratulate Dr. Sanjeev Arora who will receive the Presidential Award of Distinction at the commencement ceremony. Dr. Arora is a true visionary, one who dares to dream of how things could be – and he has the rare combination of skill and determination needed to make these dreams into reality. His

contributions to the health care industry, especially the creation of Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes), continue to shape global standards in the medical community. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has labeled Project Echo as the most important recent “disruption” to occur in the delivery of medicine.

Congratulations class of 2016. I wish you all a wonderful week, and the best in your future endeavors. For those of you who will be here this summer and spring, I look forward to seeing you on campus again soon.

Finally, I want to let you know about upcoming changes in our student health insurance plans. If you are an undergraduate or graduate student who receives health insurance through UNM, please see this [information from UNM Human Resources](#). They are working diligently to provide a plan that provides current coverage levels at the lowest possible cost, with no gaps in coverage.

Go Lobos!

Bob