



## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

### Federal Labor Standards

As many staff may already be aware, UNM is preparing for a change in federal regulation on salary and overtime exceptions. The U.S. Department of Labor, [Fair Labor Standards Act \(FLSA\)](#) has raised the exempt salary threshold, which will impact some UNM staff. The UNM Division of Human Resources and Financial Services has established a plan to ensure a smooth transition to comply with the federal adjustments by December 1, 2016.

More information about FLSA is available on the [UNM HR FLSA website](#), and will continually be sent to staff and supervisors who will be impacted by the change. Questions regarding FLSA should be directed to your [Human Resources Consultant](#).

### Providing Quality Education

Rankings and designations by outside organizations provide insights on institutional strengths, and benchmark schools against peers. Different companies use varying methodologies so rankings are not perfect representations, but they can give us awareness about the quality of education and research associated with our institution.

Last month, [UNM was ranked 82 nationally](#), and 196 globally, among thousands of universities compared by the [Center for World University Rankings](#) (CWUR). The ranking, which takes into consideration eight indicators – quality of education, alumni employment, quality of faculty, publications, influence, citations, broad impacts and patents – offers a condensed view of certain value indicators that are important to our university.

Additionally, while we know and promote to those around us that UNM is an outstanding university, it is empowering to be recognized by the CWUR on a global scale. I believe this is a measurement that gives us good reason for pride in our accomplishments.

### Setting An International Example

UNM was a learning destination last week for a group of German educators. The College of Education in partnership with the Global Education Office hosted the group, along with the Deutsche Americana Institute. They were here to learn more about the University and southwestern culture. While here, they were able to learn from some outstanding administrators and faculty members. Dr. Tryphenia Peele-Eady, Vice Provost Cheo Torres, and Dr. Christine Sims spoke about African American issues, curanderismo, and Pueblo language and traditions respectively.

The group was enchanted by New Mexico's Native American culture, our campus that looked like a "resort," and the friendly people here at UNM and statewide. Thank you to everyone who helped showcase UNM as a destination university.

### **Artistic Expression**

The art community in New Mexico is unparalleled and has many direct ties to UNM. One nearby art exhibit, the [Meow Wolf Art Complex](#), has made national news for its unique style.

By now, many of you have visited or heard of the "House of Eternal Return." Visitors and locals alike rave about the interactive experience for its fascinating mix of art and science. What you might not know is that several Lobos helped create the exhibit, and continue to work there. The UNM Newsroom recently posted a story about the immersive art exhibit's [Lobo connections](#).

### **Alumni Chapter Event**

Last weekend, I joined our Chicago Alumni Chapter to meet Lobos living in the Windy City. Dean Kym Pinder with the UNM College of Fine Arts, led a tour of the Chicago Art Museum and we had a wonderful reception at the Union Club. It was fun to meet Lobos of all ages who now live in Chicago. To keep our Lobo connections strong nationwide, the Alumni Association will hold a meeting in Dallas in October for our Texas alumni.

Have a great week, and Go Lobos!

Bob