



## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

### Honors College Top Ratings

Since its founding as a program in 1957, the UNM Honors Program has provided motivated scholars a chance to connect across disciplines. In 2013, the program became the [Honors College](#), furthering its mission and capability.

Last week, the Honors College reached a new milestone. It is now rated nationally as a top 25 public university honors college. [INSIDE HONORS: Ratings and Reviews of Sixty Public University Honors Programs](#) provides an in-depth review of honors programs in the U.S., assigning an overall mortarboard score on a 5.0 scale.

Congratulations to Dean Kate Krause, and everyone at the Honors College. This top rating is a great reflection of your work, and the academic quality found here at UNM.

### Five Decades of Dedicated Service

I would like to take a moment today to call attention to a Lobo who has been a part of our staff for 50 years. [Irvin Romero](#) has spent much of his life here at UNM. He has certainly seen a lot of change since his initial job working for the Student Union Building in 1966, but continues to represent the University proudly at the Family Practice Center as a custodian for the Physical Plant Department.

One of the greatest things I've heard about Mr. Romero is that, in short, he understands that it is the people that make our University such a notable place. It is people like him who make this campus stand out to our visitors, patients and prospective students. Our departments are teams. Our community is a pack. And the time he has devoted to this pack is commendable. Thank you Irvin, for 50 years of service, and counting.

### Naval Presence at UNM

Last week I had the high honor of visiting with Rear Admiral Phillip G. Sawyer, deputy commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, during Albuquerque Navy Week. It may be unexpected, being in a landlocked state, but the [University has strong ties with the U.S. Navy](#), as well as a strong Naval ROTC unit. Our research efforts often align well with the Navy's interests. In fact, over several decades, we've received more than \$20 million of research funding from the Office of Naval Research.

I would like to thank the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Office of the Provost and everyone who helped to make Admiral Sawyer's visit to UNM a highlight of his time in Albuquerque. We were glad to have this opportunity to show how UNM enhances our local, state and regional communities and makes an impact on the safety and success of our nation.

## University Seal Forum

The next [UNM Seal Forum](#) will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 20 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in SUB Ballroom C. This forum is seeking input from students and faculty now that the semester is in full swing.

The final forum will be held for Alumni during Homecoming Week on Sept. 28 from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Bobo Room at Hodgin Hall. All Alumni are invited to attend and share their opinions.

As we wrap up the forums, a final report will be prepared for the Regents that will analyze all the input and include a variety of student-generated redesign ideas. Please note that if the Regents decide to vote in favor of a seal redesign, they will determine the next step.

If you are unable to attend any of the forums, please send your comments to [unmseal@unm.edu](mailto:unmseal@unm.edu).

## University Town Hall

I would like to invite everyone to an informal [town hall discussion](#) on Thursday, Sept. 22, from 12:30 – 2 p.m. in the SUB Ballroom C. Provost Chaouki Abdallah, Executive Vice President David Harris and I will be speaking about a number of critical university issues, including the implications of state budget projections, the University's short and long term strategies to address the revenue shortfall, and current campus initiatives including the information technology efficiency and effectiveness effort. I hope that you will join us to take part in this important conversation.

## Honorary Degrees

There are many ways that we, as a university, recognize our trailblazers, community advocates and top scholars. I would like to point out a few awards and honors for which nominations are currently being accepted.

The Office of the Secretary is requesting nominations for [honorary degree recipients](#). Candidates will be eminent individuals and scholars whose contributions are of general significance and transcend geographical limitations. Nominations of individuals who have contributed significantly to the cultural or scientific development of the Southwest, or to the spiritual or material welfare of its people are especially welcome. A successful nominee must have an exemplary record of academic or public accomplishment in keeping with the University's standards of rigor, quality, and significance. Honorary degrees are awarded at spring Commencement.

### **Presidential Award of Distinction**

My office is seeking nominations for the [Presidential Award of Distinction](#). This award, established in 2013, recognizes outstanding career achievement, scholarly excellence, leadership in the professions, noteworthy public service, or other humanitarian endeavors. A nomination letter should be sent to the Office of the President, Scholes Hall, Room 144, by next Friday, Sept. 30, along with materials that document the nominee's biographical information, a record of accomplishment, and supporting letters from those who can speak to that record. Questions regarding the award can be directed to Abra Altman, strategic support manager at 505.277.1540.

### **Sarah Belle Brown Award**

My office is also currently accepting nominations for the [Sarah Belle Brown Community Service Award](#). The awards, which include \$1,500, are granted each year to a student, staff and faculty member. If you know someone who has selflessly dedicated time and effort to their community, please recognize him or her with a nomination. All nominations are due by next Monday at 5:00 p.m. I hope you will take a few minutes to nominate someone who is doing something to make our community a better place.

Have a great week, and Go Lobos!

Bob