



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

I might be a few days early, but would like to share what I'm thankful for today. I am thankful for you, Lobos. I'm thankful to be a part of a community of individuals that lifts each other up, and pushes one another to explore, create and change the world around us. We are part of a pack, in which each of us defines all of us, and the talent and triumph of one Lobo reflects on the rest.

Defining UNM, Together

If you attended the Lobo men's basketball game on Friday, or watched it from home, you might have seen the new [UNM promotional video](#). The video launched Friday and has received a lot of wonderful attention on [social media](#) since then. If you haven't watched it yet, please do. I think you'll be glad you did.

I've watched this spot a couple of times already, and it still gives me chills to see our campus, our culture, and our community showcased in such a beautiful and exciting way. It captures the Lobo spirit of innovation and adventure visually and through narrative. I am particularly proud to say it was narrated by Lobo alumnus and Albuquerque's inaugural Poet Laureate Hakim Bellamy.

Thank you to University Communication & Marketing (UCAM), who led the production of this wonderful and inspiring video. This video is one part of the [institutional brand initiative](#) that began last year.

One University, Many Voices

This past week was an active one in terms of our community response to the events and discussions occurring throughout our nation. The UNM administration has been actively listening to those who have voiced concerns, and is committed to ensuring that UNM is a welcoming place, where all ideas can be expressed and debated freely. I appreciate the way in which our campus has engaged in both spirited and respectful dialogue that advances us as an institution.

Presidential Awards of Distinction

I would like to recognize the recipients of the Presidential Medallion Award, Terry Laudick and Dr. Larry Sklar. Both of the honorees this year have advanced the University and academia, although in very different ways.

Mr. Laudick, President and CEO of Nusenda Federal Credit Union, has positively affected many New Mexicans, including UNM students. He has helped to champion Innovate ABQ and is an active supporter of CNM and APS.

Dr. Sklar, Distinguished and Regents' Professor in the Department of Pathology, is an innovator who has made extraordinary contributions to medicine, science and the community. His accomplishments, which include an outstanding record of inventions, have been tremendous for both UNM and the community.

Both Mr. Laudick and Dr. Sklar will be honored during the Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony in December.

Graduation Ceremony Volunteers

The Office of the Secretary is looking for volunteers to join in celebrating the fall Class of 2016.

There will be [two graduation ceremonies](#); one for graduate degrees, master's and doctoral degrees and one for undergraduate degrees, bachelor's and associates degrees. The Graduate Ceremony will be held on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m., and the Undergraduate Ceremony will be held on Friday, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. Both ceremonies will be held in WisePies Arena aka The PIT. You can [sign up to volunteer online](#).

I wish you and your loved ones a happy and safe Thanksgiving and holiday weekend.

Go Lobos!

Bob