



## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Last Friday, our campus was a playground for the first amendment. I am grateful that while many made their voices heard, we were able to provide a safe environment; many thanks to our students, faculty, staff and community members for their dedication to upholding our institutional and constitutional values. We will continue in that dedication and will now focus on how to deal with the concerns raised by the executive order of the president of the United States that impacts visa holders of citizens of seven countries.

Our [Global Education Office](#) has already communicated with the more than 100 individuals in the UNM community who are potentially affected (whether they are currently at UNM or out of the country), and are [advising and supporting them](#). UNM, like every higher education institution in the United States actively recruits and attracts academic talent from around the globe, for the benefit of our State and the Nation. We are working closely with and supporting actions by [legislators and organizations to make sure these efforts are not curtailed](#).

We do recognize the importance of actions that ensure the visa system prevents entry to anyone who wishes to harm citizens and residents of the United States. At the same time, [UNM continues to work within the law to support and protect](#) all of our students, faculty, and staff who might be adversely affected. I remind you that our first amendment right is one of the protections afforded to us by the US constitution. It allows us to speak truth to power on behalf of those who cannot!

I will be sending a more detailed and updated message about this and related issues in the next few days.

### Black History Month at UNM

Black history is American history. It is woven throughout the fabric of our country's politics, culture and great accomplishments. Wednesday marks the beginning of national Black History Month, a time when our nation celebrates and reflects on the way in which black history shapes our country. Many thanks to African American Student Services (AASS) and the [Africana Studies Program for developing a dynamic series of events](#) throughout the month that will provide our campus community a variety of ways to celebrate, learn about and recognize the heritage and contributions of African-Americans. I was honored to attend the kick-off brunch on Saturday and to welcome the plenary speaker, Dr. Anderson.

### UNM Day at the Roundhouse

Today is [UNM Day at the Capitol](#), which affords us the opportunity to promote many of the University's contributions to our communities throughout and beyond New Mexico. Every year we have one day, reserved solely for UNM tables and exhibits to showcase our schools, campuses and programs on the first floor of our state's capitol building. Thank you to all of the students, staff and faculty who are representing UNM,

and showing New Mexico's citizens the far-reaching impact of our University. This evening, the UNM Alumni Association will be hosting its annual legislative appreciation reception, where Lobos past and present will take the opportunity to thank our state's leaders for their support of UNM and service to New Mexico.

Chaouki T. Abdallah

Acting President

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*There is so much more that happens on the UNM campus than can be conveyed in a weekly message. To find out about the latest stories and events, please visit the [UNM Newsroom](#), the central source of news and information for the UNM community.*