

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

2017 Freshman Family Day

Freshman Family Day is an event to welcome incoming students and their families to the university community on Sunday, Aug. 20, at 4 p.m. in Popejoy Hall. It begins with a convocation ceremony, followed by a reception and classroom tours. We expect to welcome approximately 3,300 freshmen and their parents to campus this year, with many of them attending [Freshman Family Day](#).

The Office of the University Secretary is seeking volunteers to assist with [Freshman Convocation](#). Please consider giving some of your time to welcome the Freshman Class of 2021 and their families to campus, to show them how excited we are to have them at UNM. Volunteer hours will be in shifts of two to three hours between 2 and 7:30 p.m. that day. Fill out the short form and sign up to volunteer here.

State Budget and UNM

You may have read the article in the Albuquerque Journal last week, titled "[Economy in NM growing after years of stagnation](#)." While this is certainly excellent news for the State of New Mexico, we cannot assume this will immediately translate into a change in the funding for UNM. As you may know, there is a delay of at least a year for revenues to make their way into the budget, then into the higher education allocation. Moreover, the state reserves have been depleted and the legislature will likely first replenish those, in order to keep the bond rating for the state. We continue to advocate to the state the university's funding needs and the importance of higher education to our economy. However, as I have mentioned previously, the funding levels of public institutions of higher education are shifting away from state support throughout the United States, and certainly in New Mexico, if you look at trends over the last several years. This is due to pressures on state budgets, mainly from healthcare and benefits costs. While I am optimistic that the worst is behind us, and our state is experiencing an economic upturn, I fear that it will not translate into a meaningful increase to the university's budget without significant structural changes to state revenues. This is why the leadership of the university has embarked upon a discussion to find long-term solutions to address our fiscal challenges, while also identifying new opportunities for revenue. In the coming months, we will broaden this discussion to include campus-wide input.

Faculty/Staff Eligible for Half-Price Lobo Football Season Tickets

Did you know that eligible faculty and staff (.5 FTE or greater) can purchase Lobo Football season tickets at 50 percent off? Adult season tickets start at only \$43 (originally \$86) and 4-seat Family Packs are available for as little as \$112 (originally \$225). This promises to be another exciting year of football, with your Lobos

coming off a tremendous 2016 season that saw them not only lead the NCAA in rushing, but finish with a 9-4 record, including a win in the Gildan New Mexico Bowl! To order your season tickets or for more information, call 505-925-5626 or 505-925-1620, or email jgehling@unm.edu.

Until next time.

Chaouki Abdallah

Interim President

Follow me on Twitter [@chaoukita](https://twitter.com/chaoukita)

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.