

## **PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE**

Good afternoon.

### **How do we know?**

A few years ago, I discussed, in one of the Provost Communiques, the question of knowledge vs. belief. The Honors College then taught a course to help students answer the question: How do we know what we know? This was before social media stories took over our national discourse and since then, it has become more critical to be able to distinguish truth from fake news, and true knowledge from mere opinion. As discussed in the book "Knowledge: a very short introduction," by Jennifer Nagel, while it is easier than ever to look up the answer to any question, it has become harder to know "the difference between just thinking that something is true and actually knowing that it is." This is why a college education is more important than ever and why we continue to encourage exposure to different ideas. It is only by exercising our minds that we make ourselves stronger and ultimately, more confident, if never completely sure, of the truth of our knowledge.

### **LGBTQ Facility Ribbon Cutting**

The University of New Mexico is proud to announce the grand opening of the new LGBTQ Resource Center on Wednesday, Oct. 11, from 4 to 6 p.m. at 1919 Las Lomas Blvd. (across from the new McKinnon Center for Management building). The new, more accessible space was made possible through a state capital allocation by UNM Alumnus and New Mexico Senator Jacob Candelaria. The event will coincide with activities for National Coming Out Day. Click [here](#) for details.

### **GoFundMe to Help Victims of the Las Vegas Shooting**

A UNM student from Las Vegas informed me of the trauma of this tragedy for someone who is here, watching the gut-wrenching horror unfold in your hometown, without being there to help. My heart goes out to all the victims, their families, friends and the entire community. To help the victims of the Las Vegas shooting, go to: [Help Las Vegas](#).

### **Call for Presidential Award of Distinction Nominations**

Established in 2013, the Presidential Award of Distinction is one of the university's most prestigious awards, bestowed at the discretion of the university president. It is given to distinguished persons in recognition of outstanding career achievement, scholarly excellence, leadership in the professions, noteworthy public service, humanitarian endeavors, or to honor other activities that the university president determines are worthy of the award.

Nominators are requested to submit a letter stating, in sufficient detail, their reasons for the nomination. Materials that accompany the letter should include: biographical information, a record of accomplishment, and supporting letters from those who can speak to that record. Because the selection committee must review many illustrious and notable nominees, please provide as complete a nomination as possible.

Nominations must be received in the Office of the President, Scholes Hall, Room 144, no later than Friday, Oct. 13, at 5 p.m. They may also be emailed to [aaltman@unm.edu](mailto:aaltman@unm.edu). If you have any questions, please call Abra Altman, Strategic Support Manager, at (505) 277-1540.

The policy is available at [Presidential Award of Distinction](#).

Until next time.

Chaouki Abdallah

Interim 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.*