

## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

### A Grateful Lobo

In the midst of our daily grind, we sometimes lose sight of the most important mission of this university. I received this email on Friday and, with the author's permission, I wanted to share it with the campus community, to remind us that the impact we have on someone's life may not be felt for years to come. UNM's most significant role is to be a "pump and not a filter."

*"My name is Elizabeth Shifrin, formerly Elizabeth Victoria Whiting, and I went to UNM in 1993. At first, the University denied my admission because I did not have the academic record to succeed. What the University did not know was that I came from a very bad family situation. I was smart but I did not have any guidance or any type of encouragement. Looking back, I really had no chance nor did I deserve one. After being denied, I fought hard and met with some type of admission panel and was allowed to attend on academic probation. It was so special for me and I was so grateful, I thrived and wanted to prove I belonged there. I graduated Cum Laude and went to law school. Fast forward 24 years, I am a highly respected criminal court judge for the City of Greenwood Village, Colorado, a Lt. Col. in the AF JAG Corps Reserve, and a legal advisor for a large defense contractor. My experiences at UNM made me very compassionate and I go out of my way to help the kids in my courtroom, kids like me...that have no chance. UNM gave me the chance nobody else would. I had a juvenile in my courtroom on Wednesday that had all the cards stacked against him and I thought about UNM, pondered my past and lack of encouragement and paid it forward. I gave him the chance he didn't deserve and also provided great encouragement. I know all I have today and who I am is a reflection of UNM giving me that chance, the chance I did not deserve. I wanted to let you know this because I had no idea who else to thank. Thank you very much, from the bottom of my heart. - rse"*

I was, of course, proud of the sentiments expressed in her email, but also wanted to make sure that all of you share in the joy of a job well done.

### LFC Report

The Legislative Finance Committee released its report titled "[Higher Education Cost Drivers and Cost Savings.](#)" We are reviewing it and will have some comments/corrections.

### UNM Hospitals / Dr. Yonas award

Dr. Howard Yonas was selected as the [2017 RAISE Award: Outstanding Individual](#), by the National Stroke Association. The Raising Awareness in Stroke Excellence (RAISE) Awards "annually recognize individuals and groups from across the country for taking stroke awareness activities to new heights."

The UNM Hospitals were recognized by US News & World Report Best Hospitals, for delivering evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve quality of care for heart disease and stroke patients.

## **2017 Mandatory Training**

Reminder: 2017 Mandatory Training is now open, with a new deadline of December 1. All UNM employees, including regular faculty and staff, temporary faculty and staff, on-call staff, and student employees (including graduate students) are required to complete the three designated university-wide mandatory training courses. For more information, please visit [mandatory training](#). To see who has and has not completed the 2017 Mandatory Trainings in your area, go to Learning Central for direct reports and HR Reports for your department and organization.

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.*