



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

I hit the ground running, and even flying, during my first full week as president. I want to thank the many of you who have made Jeff and me feel so welcomed, and shared your ideas and enthusiasm for the future of UNM. I attended a record-breaking LoboTHON fundraiser, met with local media and had the pleasure of watching our Lobos play at the Mountain West Conference championship. Congratulations to both the women's and men's basketball teams and their coaches, who all showed tremendous heart and skill on the court. And many thanks to all the fans who came to Las Vegas to cheer the Lobos on or followed them here at home. I would also like to applaud Lobo women's basketball senior guard and business administration major Cherise Benyon for her off-the-court success. With a 4.1 GPA, [Cherise highlights the 2017-18 Academic All-America Division I basketball team as the Academic All-America of the Year](#), as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). She is the first female in UNM history to ever earn the honor, the highest Academic All-America honor that a student-athlete can earn. Congratulations Cherise!"

Accountability Starts at the Top

I have said before that accountability starts at the top. To that end, I am very pleased to announce that last Wednesday more than 120 members of the UNM administration attended the first of several [whistleblower and retaliation trainings that UNM is offering](#) as part of the response outlined earlier this year to recommendations offered to strengthen our campus cultural accountability. UNM is committed to creating a supportive environment that values and addresses reported concerns regarding violations of UNM policies and the law. These trainings provide excellent opportunities for us to acquire both the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize and respond appropriately. The next training will be offered on April 17, 2018.

Update on 2018 State Budget and Bills

This week is spring break for many of our students, and I hope those who are away from campus are taking time for some well-deserved rest and recharging before the final push to finals and, for some, commencement.

However, this will be a busy week for us as we come into the final stretch before our budget summit next Thursday, March 22. Governor Martinez signed off on the state budget last Thursday, and decided upon a number of [bills that are specific to or affect UNM](#). I am happy to say we were allocated new money for FY19, which also includes an allocation for a cost of living adjustment for our hard-working employees. I want to thank everyone who worked diligently in Santa Fe to make this happen. UNM has been fortunate to weather the past several years' financial challenges with prudent practices and planning, but we must continue to emphasize internal efficiencies and enhanced revenues in order to have a stable financial future.

Listening and Learning

I am not coming into this position with all of the answers, but I do think I am asking the right questions. In approaching decisions regarding institutional priorities, listening to the diverse perspectives of this community is the best way for me to learn about UNM's history, culture, people and areas of distinction. I will also be dedicated to learning about our campus communities and constituents across the state. What I am finding is that a significant amount of groundwork has already been laid upon which we can continue to build.

This morning I attended my first full Board of Regents meeting where I emphasized the importance of an informed and inclusive approach to leadership. I also identified some existing critical priorities on which we will continue to focus in order to be successful, such as campus climate, campus safety, student veterans and our research enterprise.

I continue to look forward to opportunities to get to know as many of you as possible. When you see me around campus or town, please say hello and introduce yourselves.

Have a great week and go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President