

July 2, 2018



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

The summer at a University is a good time for me to incorporate statewide travel into my schedule. As I have shared, travel has been a significant part of my work over the past few weeks and I hope you have been able to [follow along](#). My focus for the upcoming weeks is rooted on our main campus, where there are more connections to be made and initiatives to be pursued.

UNM Staff

The many perspectives and experiences that are being shared with me will ultimately be the foundation of an inclusive, university strategic-planning initiative for the coming years. UNM is one of the largest employers in New Mexico, and the staff here are truly the backbone of the University. Their collective institutional knowledge is astounding, and I have been impressed by the dedication, pride and energy demonstrated at every level of service. All University staff are invited to share their viewpoints and ideas with me, and enjoy some light refreshments, on Monday, July 23 from 12 – 1 p.m. in SUB Ballroom C. I am really looking forward to meeting with those who can attend. If your schedule does not permit you to make the town hall meeting, please feel free to reach out to me at presidentstokes@unm.edu. There will be continued opportunities for engagement, as the listening never truly ends.

Academic Leadership Update

As many of you have heard, Provost Chaouki Abdallah has accepted the prestigious position of executive vice president for Research at the Georgia Institute of Technology. In the short time I have had the privilege to work with Provost Abdallah, I have found him to be a valuable and deeply insightful colleague with a deep appreciation for the important role of a public research institution. He is a talented educator, researcher and administrator who has built a well-deserved reputation for an unwavering commitment to student success. His innovative contributions to the academic mission of UNM have created a long-lasting impact that will be felt for years to come. I wish him, and his family, the very best.

“America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination.” – Harry S. Truman

This Wednesday is a mid-week holiday for many of us to celebrate Independence Day, our nation's 242nd birthday. It's also a great opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of our citizenship and the tenets upon which it is founded—liberty, equality and opportunity. Courage gives us the voice to speak freely; imagination drives us to create new pathways to prosperity; and unbeatable determination empowers us to be better as a people under any circumstances.

I wish you all a Happy Fourth of July!

Garnett S. Stokes
President

Feel free to reach out to me at presidentstokes@unm.edu.
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