



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



September 24, 2018

Good afternoon.

Homecoming week has officially begun, and I would like to personally welcome all of our alumni and their families who are joining us for the more than [50 events and festivities](#) going on this week. This tradition is a time for all of us to celebrate all we have accomplished as an institution and to reignite the Lobo spirit!

## **Budget and enrollment**

Interim Provost Richard Wood informed the campus community last week about our [new enrollment numbers and their impact on university finances](#). The enrollment decline will result in an approximately \$9.7 million decrease in expected tuition and student fee revenue. UNM leadership is working to strategically plan for these upcoming fiscal challenges. We can all be part of that work by being outspoken ambassadors for the University – reaching out to potential students to help them understand the terrific learning opportunities and rich experiences available here.

Last Thursday, I met with the Budget Leadership Team to initiate the work they'll be doing to address these issues. BLT will be looking at all dimensions of the university budget and proposing ways UNM can best invest in the academic mission and our students. As we plan for the future, I encourage all UNM faculty and staff to continue the great work they are doing: generating ground-breaking research and creating an environment conducive to learning and student success. Meanwhile University leadership at all levels will also be working to create solutions to the unique situation facing us moving forward.

## **Collaborative research on reliable energy**

A culture of collaboration is fundamental to solving problems and creating solutions within our state. Last week, the National Science Foundation (NSF) announced that a consortium of higher education researchers and partners in New Mexico were awarded a [\\$20 million grant to spearhead research on modernizing the electric grid](#). The grant was received through the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). It will link researchers and students from The University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Tech and Santa Fe Community College with researchers and scientists at Sandia National Laboratories. They will be looking at ways to enhance the reliability of the electric grid and adapt it to meet rising consumer demand coming from electric cars and tech gadgets. By drawing on the respective strengths of our New Mexico colleges and universities and the varied expertise, experiences and perspectives of their faculty and students, we can better innovate in response to a collective goal and purpose.

## **Appreciating our Custodial Staff**

Last week UNM Facilities Management celebrated [Custodial Appreciation Week](#), which ended with an event honoring the custodial staff and all their effort and accomplishments on Friday, National Custodian

Appreciation Day. The custodial staff is often on-campus before the sun rises, and some of them don't leave until well after the traditional workday is over. It is their dedication to the upkeep of the University that keeps our offices and bathrooms clean, the floors vacuumed, the trash cans empty and the bookshelves dust-free. I'd like to extend a personal thank you to the more than 140 custodial workers and specialists who create a clean work environment for all of us here at UNM. Although the official "appreciation" week is over, let's continue to make every day "appreciate-our-co-workers" day. Each of us defines all of us - that definition should be one of inclusivity, civility, appreciation and respect.

### **Final Week to Submit Sarah Belle Brown Award Nominations**

Monday, Oct. 1, 2018 is the deadline to submit [nominations for the 2018 Sarah Belle Brown Community Service Award](#). Established by Doug Brown, a former UNM Regent and dean of Anderson School of Management, the award honors his wife, Sarah, for her dedication to community service and her compassion for those in need. One faculty member, staff member and student are each presented with the award every year, in recognition of their extraordinary commitment to community service by volunteering their time and expertise. Recipients receive a \$1,500 cash award or scholarship, thanks to a generous endowment by Doug and Sarah Brown. If you know someone who selflessly gives to those in need, please nominate them today.

Have a great Homecoming week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes

President

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