



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 5, 2018

I feel that the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more.

- Dr. Jonas Salk

Good afternoon.

As the end-of-year holiday season approaches, I find myself reflecting more often on what I'm most appreciative of, and how to turn that thankfulness into motivation for continued growth and productivity in the coming year.

UNM Recognized as a “Place” for Innovation and Economic Prosperity

We often think of what is invested in our research efforts, but it is always exceptionally gratifying when we can celebrate what is given back to society. The research in which we invest today leads to the greatest discoveries and innovations of tomorrow. Creating physical spaces in which innovation can thrive has put [UNM among only six research institutions named as finalists for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities \(APLU\) sixth annual Innovation & Economic Prosperity \(IEP\) University Awards](#). UNM is a finalist for the IEP “Place” award for exemplary initiatives resulting in social, cultural or community development. This distinction was made possible by STC.UNM successfully making the Lobo Rainforest Building at Innovate ABQ a reality. I applaud the many people and organizations who have worked so hard to make this university an avenue for collaboration, innovation and economic engagement for all New Mexicans.

UNM Gives Campaign

Through our partnership with the United Way of Central New Mexico and the UNM Foundation, faculty and staff contributions through the annual [UNM Gives Campaign](#) inspire a focus on the future and impact the lives and circumstances of those within our community. The campaign is ongoing through Dec. 20, and to encourage giving, all those who make a monetary pledge will be entered into a random drawing for prizes, including a dinner for six with my husband, Jeff, and me at University House and suite tickets for men's or women's basketball games. The two departments who collectively give the most will receive a pizza delivery from HSC Chancellor Paul Roth and me. UNM Gives is a great way for our Lobo community to direct their support, whether it be a financial donation or a pledge of volunteered time and talent, to programs and nonprofits of their choosing.

Operation Gratitude

Each year Employee Wellness gives us the chance to express our gratitude to members of the U.S. military by collecting donations of leftover Halloween candy, toiletries, gifts and notes from the UNM community. [“Operation Gratitude” forwards these to the Blue Star Mothers of America](#), who package and distribute them to deployed military members or their families here at home. The donation drive goes on through Nov. 7, so if you have something extra, please consider sharing it with those who serve.

Traveling Office Hours Begin this Week

Our students, staff and faculty understand UNM best, bringing perspectives across disciplines, backgrounds, culture and generations. To better benefit from this depth of knowledge and spark ongoing dialogue with the campus community, I will begin holding an ongoing series of [traveling office hours](#) across campus. The Biology Department has been gracious enough to host the first of these informal opportunities for conversation this Wednesday, Nov. 7 in the Greenhouse of Castetter Hall from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. I hope you will consider joining me to discuss your concerns regarding UNM, and also to share with me what you think is going well. If you can't make this one, there are [several others planned](#), and more will be added throughout the academic year.

Executive Search Update and Interim Leadership Appointment

The search is moving forward to find a new leader charged with overseeing UNM's Finance and Administration functions. Please consider attending one of three listening sessions scheduled for staff, students and faculty tomorrow, Nov. 6. A [schedule and a list of questions](#) aimed at kindling the discussion are provided. As the [search for Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs](#) continues, I hope you will provide your input and recommendations regarding expectations for this position, as well as perspectives on the ideal candidate profile, by answering the short list of questions on the [Provost Search Survey](#). Your suggestions for possible candidates are also welcome. I expect to name a new Provost and a new leader of Finance and Administration late in the spring semester.

I'm pleased to announce that Anderson School Dean Craig White will serve as the Interim leader of the Office of Finance and Administration effective Jan. 1, 2019. It is not Dean White's first time stepping in to assist the university during a transition - he served as Interim Provost in 2017. Dean White's background in accounting, his oversight of a very successful school of business, and his time serving in executive leadership will be highly beneficial to UNM. Announcing Dean White's appointment this much in advance of David Harris's retirement will allow plenty of time for a smooth transition in the Office of F&A and will be less disruptive to planning in the Anderson School.

Updates will continue on all [executive searches](#) as they progress.

Have a great week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President

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