



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 19, 2018

Good afternoon.

November is [National Native American Heritage Month](#), a time to honor and recognize the rich ancestry and traditions of the original people of this land. We are so fortunate to live in a state whose 23 pueblos, tribes, and nations reflect more than a millennium of Native culture and history. It was wonderful to see the UNM Men's Basketball team wear turquoise, a color symbolic of friendship and community in Native culture, in honor of the occasion in our game against NMSU this past Saturday. It was also great to see so many tribal leaders attending the Rio Grande rivalry game.

This is a short week for many of us, and to those who are off, I wish you a safe and peaceful break. Many thanks to our dedicated clinical and essential university employees who continue to work over the long weekend.

Powered by Publics

As the state's flagship university, and the University *for* New Mexico, our campus successes and challenges are direct reflections of our wider communities. The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities' (APLU) Center for Public University Transformation was created earlier this year to help drive transformational change across the public higher education sector. UNM is one of 130 institutions that are joining together as part of a Center initiative called [Powered by Publics: Scaling Student Success](#), which represents the largest ever collaborative effort to improve college access, advance equity, and increase college degrees awarded. Interim Provost Richard L. Wood attended last week's annual APLU meeting and was able to participate in the initial facilitation. As a prominent [story in Forbes Magazine](#) noted, "If APLU's Powered By Publics is able to increase degree completion and enhance student learning, it will deliver the important gains for which it has such great promise." Wood was also there with STC.UNM's Director of Economic Development Cara Michaliszyn, to accept the [2018 Innovation & Economic Prosperity \(IEP\) 'Place' award for exemplary initiatives resulting in social, cultural, or community development](#), for the Lobo Rainforest project. Congratulations to the many Rainforest contributors who made the vision of an innovation hub in downtown Albuquerque a reality.

2018 Fall Commencement Volunteers Needed

After students return to campus next week, graduation is a short three weeks away, with the main commencement ceremony happening on Friday, Dec. 14, 2018. This year, we have the great honor of having New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice Judith Nakamura, who received her undergraduate and law degrees at UNM, as our keynote speaker. It takes a dedicated team of staff and faculty volunteers to make commencement run smoothly, and we are grateful to those who have already agreed to assist. If you have not volunteered recently for Commencement, please consider doing so this year—it's a great chance to celebrate our students and the teaching dimension of our mission. The deadline for [volunteer sign-up](#) is Nov. 30, so there is still time if you would like to participate.

New Title IX Regulations Proposed

On Friday, the [U.S. Department of Education issued a proposed regulation](#) altering the way sexual harassment issues are handled by institutions of higher education. The Department's proposed Title IX rule will be open for public comment for 60 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register. This new rule will have the force of law and can go into effect without an act of Congress, after the public comment period concludes. Once the regulation takes effect, lawsuits will likely be filed immediately to determine if the Department of Education has the authority to exercise this level of regulatory power. The University of New Mexico remains committed to the reduction and prevention of sexual harassment on its campus and will closely examine the new regulation and explore how the current Department of Justice agreement will intersect.

Final Mandatory Training Reminder

We are quickly approaching the Dec. 1 deadline for [2018 Mandatory Training](#). With just a few days left, it is imperative that all regular faculty and staff, temporary faculty and staff, on-call staff, and student employees (including graduate students), complete the three designated university-wide mandatory training courses. If you haven't done so already, please visit Learning Central and complete your training this week. Students are also reminded to complete the 45-minute [mandatory learning module "Think About It,"](#) following the completion of the in-person "Grey Area" training for qualified students.

I want to congratulate our Women's Cross Country team and their coach, Joe Franklin, for placing second in the NCAA tournament. They have had a great season!

Have a wonderful Fall Break and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President

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