



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



July 15, 2019

Good afternoon.

## Committed to Community

After last year's statewide learning and listening tour, my priority list includes continuing to visit communities around the state. Recently, I had the opportunity to travel back to Taos as well as visiting Cloudcroft for the very first time. Last week, I had the pleasure of joining University leaders and the Board of Regents at the UNM Taos branch campus and historic Harwood Museum. The welcoming views in Taos were eclipsed only by the warm greetings of our UNM Taos faculty, staff and students - many thanks to Patrick Valdez for hosting us and sharing the success and growth this branch has achieved in its mission of service to the citizens of northern New Mexico.

I loved my first trip to Cloudcroft and understand now why Cloudcroft is marketed as 9,000' above stress level. I traveled to Cloudcroft to testify in front of the Legislative Finance Committee regarding UNM's plans to improve enrollment and retention. There were some thoughtful questions posed by several legislators on the committee, and I was gratified to hear support for higher education in New Mexico, and for UNM, from several of the committee members. We have our work cut out for us, but I am optimistic about where we are headed.

I enjoy meeting new people who love the University and seeing how UNM has a real impact in the state and beyond. It helps me maintain a perspective on what's important to communities around the state. I will keep you apprised of my future travels and hope to run into you around the state!

## Opportunity Through Partnership

Facilitating a thriving, vibrant research community at UNM is not only essential to our state's economy and culture, but it is also vital to our students' success. I have visited all three of our national and federal labs, in which many of our faculty and students collaborate, and which offer exceptional career opportunities to a number of our graduates. Just last week, we announced a new cooperative joint faculty agreement with [Los Alamos National Laboratory](#) that brings unprecedented access to collaborative opportunities. Similarly, we recently signed an [international collaborative research agreement](#) with one of Albuquerque's 10 sister cities - Chihuahua, Mexico. Collaborations and agreements like these provide unparalleled foundations for student success. Our mission is not just about our students' time on-campus, but about where they go when they graduate.

## School of Engineering Recognized for Diversity

"Each of us defines all of us" is something we're proud to say here at UNM. It's a mantra that recognizes the abundant variety of cultures, countries, languages and backgrounds represented by our students, faculty and staff. Our School of Engineering (SOE) was just [recognized for its contribution to this area](#) and is one

of only 82 engineering programs around the country acknowledged by the inaugural American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) [Diversity Recognition Program](#). UNM SOE was listed among some of the country's top higher ed institutions, including Georgia Tech, Rutgers University, Texas A&M, Duke University, and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is elemental to ensuring that opportunities for personal and intellectual growth are equitably offered to each and every member of our community in order to create a place where we challenge our assumptions and expand our greater understanding of the world and the people in it.

### **Search for VP of Enrollment Management Moves Forward**

Last week, we welcomed [three finalists to campus](#) for the VP of Enrollment Management. Dan D. García, Jose L. (Larry) Cantu, and Rebecca L. Lothringer. Each held well-attended public forums to discuss questions and concerns with faculty, staff and students. If you were able to attend, or watch the livestreams online, please let the search committee know your thoughts and impressions through the [candidate feedback forms](#). Your input is important to ensure we choose a candidate who will not only serve the needs of the administration, but also the campus community as a whole.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President