UNM | *Office of the President*

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

State Budget

As many of you are aware, on April 7, 2017, the Governor signed the House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bills 2 and 3, in which she vetoed the Higher Education general fund appropriation as well as funding for legislative agencies. In the executive message, the Governor conveyed that "…the funding for our higher education institutions…can be addressed in the upcoming special session." We have been engaged for months in our internal budget planning process, and order for that process to be finalized, we must have certainty about the State allocation. Like other public higher education institutions, we depend on the State's contribution to deliver quality education. Our concern at this stage is that, in the absence of a State appropriation, our internal budget process will be delayed. It is my sincere hope that the Governor and the legislature will provide a higher education budget as soon as possible so that we can serve our students and our state with confidence. I will continue to keep the campus community informed as this process moves forward.

UNM Human Research Protections Program Accreditation

AAHRPP accreditation is a voluntary process that reflects the University of New Mexico's ongoing commitment to high-quality clinical research and the protection of human subjects. This distinction affirms the dedication we have to our research mission, and to the well-being of our community and its people.

UNM Awarded NSF ADVANCE Grant

For years, an increasing number of women have obtained STEM doctoral degrees, yet women continue to be significantly underrepresented in almost all STEM academic positions. With the award of a recent 5-year $3.3 million NSF Advance grant, I am proud to say that UNM is already laying the groundwork to increase the representation and advancement of women in science and engineering. This comes at a critical time for our institution, as we continue to build partnerships and advance knowledge with our nation's scientific and technological innovators.

Spring 2017 Commencement Speaker

It is my distinct pleasure to announce Joshua C. Ramo as UNM's spring 2017 commencement speaker. Joshua was raised in Los Ranchos, New Mexico. He began flying in his late teens and later wrote the book No Visible Horizon about his experiences as a competitive aerobatic pilot. He graduated from the Albuquerque Academy then earned a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Chicago

and a master's degree in economics from New York University. Joshua began his career as a journalist at Newsweek in 1993. He joined Time Magazine in 1996 where oversaw the magazine's digital operations and ran Time's digital magazine while also covering technology. In 1998 he became the foreign editor of Time, overseeing all of the magazine's international coverage. He was the youngest senior editor and foreign editor in the publication's history. During his tenure at the magazine he wrote more than 20 domestic and international cover stories. He has also authored The Age of the Unthinkable and The Seventh Sense.

LAII Conference to Address Critical Needs Latin American Asylum Cases

The Latin American & Iberian Institute (LAII) hosts its annual Richard E. Greenleaf Conference on Latin America, April 14-15 at the UNM SUB, Lobo A & B. "Practicing Asylum: Expert Witness Testimony in Latin American Asylum Cases," will address critical issues related to Latin American immigration by combining the perspectives of both academics and attorneys from within and beyond New Mexico who are engaged in issues related to asylum work. The conference if free, but registration is encouraged.

Chaouki T. Abdallah
Acting President
Follow me on Twitter @chaoukita

There is so much more that happens on the UNM campus than can be conveyed in a weekly message. To find out about the latest stories and events, please visit the UNM Newsroom, the central source of news and information for the UNM community.