

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good Afternoon.

Last week, the board of regents announced that Dr. Garnett Stokes will begin leading the University on March 1, 2018, as UNM's 22nd president. In my discussions with the incoming president, I found her forthcoming, well informed, and ready to take on the responsibility of leading UNM. I look forward to handing her the reins on that date, and going back to the provost role.

Since January 2017, when I was asked to be acting president, I have focused my efforts and messaging on the areas of campus climate, financial challenges, and our continuing efforts on advancing student success. I have since started the conversation about re-engineering the university, an effort I hope to continue throughout my tenure as interim president and then as provost. It continues to be my greatest privilege and honor to serve UNM, a university I joined in 1988, and I look forward to passing the mantle to President Stokes and to continue working with all of you.

New Federal Tax Proposals

The Association of Public & Land Grant Universities (APLU) monitors legislation that may affect universities such as ours. They have sent a [letter](#) to the House Ways and Means Committee, regarding H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and the Jobs Act, expressing APLU's concerns about proposed changes to the tax code. These changes will affect student loans, research, and private giving.

UNM Gives Campaign Runs Through November 17 - Prize Drawings Continue

There are only two weeks left of the [UNM Gives Campaign](#) through our partnership with the United Way of Central New Mexico and the UNM Foundation—where faculty, staff and employees contribute time and money to charitable organizations, in an effort to change lives and circumstances. The campaign runs through Friday, Nov. 17 and allows 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.

This year, in order to encourage giving, all those who make a monetary pledge to the campaign, through November 17th, will be entered into a random drawing for prizes. Several of the prizes have already been drawn, including 2 tickets to the president's seats at a basketball game, a Lobo prize pack, and a tour of the HSC helicopter and helipad. There are still great prizes left, with drawings continuing throughout the campaign. Chancellor Roth and I will each make a personal pizza delivery, if one department reaches a noticeable level of monetary donations, both on Main Campus and at the HSC. Please consider making your pledge at unmgives.unm.edu. If each of us make a small donation, we can collectively have an enormous impact in our community.

Sarah Belle Brown Awards - Recognizing Exceptional Community Service

Thank you to everyone who nominated a student, staff or faculty member for the 2017 Sarah Belle Brown

Community Service Awards. After reviewing many nominations, each detailing impactful community service and volunteer efforts, the review committee has selected three people who emulate Sarah's ongoing commitment to helping those in need.

- **Jenny Moore**, the faculty award recipient, is dedicated to improving the lives of refugees and immigrants, as well as strengthening resources and support services for undocumented students at UNM.
- **Kim Kloeppel**, the staff award recipient, not only volunteers to serve the community, but also inspires those around her to give, support those in need, and encourage kindness.
- **Jesse Yelvington**, the student award recipient, has provided mentorship to New Mexico's youth, through service to the LGBTQ community and volunteer groups, while advancing the overarching mission and goals of these important organizations.

All of these award winners exemplify the kind of volunteerism that makes UNM and New Mexico a better, stronger and more caring community. Their work and dedication serves to inspire us all. Congratulations to this year's awardees, and thank you for your generosity. For more information on this year's recipients, [Legacy of Community Service](#).

Flu Shot Clinic November 7 and 8

SHAC will hosts its annual flu shot clinic for faculty, staff and students on Nov. 7 and 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at UNM's Student Health and Counseling (SHAC). SHAC has entered a flu shot challenge against other universities nationwide. All you have to do is get your flu shot and fill out a quick [five question survey](#). You don't have to get your flu shot on campus to participate.

LoboTHON Miracle Week

LoboTHON's Miracle Week is today through Friday, Nov. 10. LoboTHON is UNM's largest student-run philanthropy, benefitting UNM Children's Hospital. Students can become involved this week by registering for the 13.1 hour Dance Marathon on March 3, 2018 or by making a tax-deductible donation at lobothon.org! LoboTHON will attempt to fundraise \$6,600, in one day, on the "Day of Possibility," this Thursday, Nov. 9, for the 66,000 patients treated annually at UNM Children's Hospital.

Until next time.

Chaouki Abdallah

Interim 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.