

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

As you may have read in the Provost's Weekly Brief on Friday, there is an upcoming transition in the Office of the Provost. Provost White will move back to his role as dean of the Anderson School of Management on Jan. 1, prior to the beginning of the spring semester. Rich Wood has agreed to be Acting Provost in January and February, until I return to that office on March 1, when we will welcome President Stokes. Thank you to Provost White, for stepping in to that office while I was needed in the Office of the President. I also want to thank Rich Wood for agreeing to take the role of Acting Provost during the two month gap.

Records Management

A few recent items in the media have raised questions about UNM's obligations, with respect to public records. As an institution entrusted to serve the public, we must strive to maintain the highest ethical standards in all that we do. This includes our shared value of transparency and ensuring that our communications and work demonstrate our commitment to mutual integrity and respect. Transparency sometimes takes courage; some days it requires viewing communications or work that we might have done differently, if given another opportunity. Even things we would rather not see again must be provided once a request under the Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) is made. At the same time, we must also treat the work we do as important, and ensure that our substantive work that will inform our colleagues and guide our successors is not only a product to be proud of, but also appropriately maintained.

Determining what records to preserve and for how long is often challenging. At UNM, we are committed to proper preservation, storage, retrieval and disposal of records to meet all of our requirements, protect sensitive information, and optimize the use of precious space. Part of our obligation involves distinguishing substantive work from more routine, inconsequential communications, such as where and when a particular meeting will take place. Some of you have expressed uncertainty about the appropriate retention and maintenance of substantive records, and it appears that there is no shortage of confusion on the appropriate management of our more routine records. Therefore, I have asked UNM's Policy Office to work with UNM Records Management, to draft a policy on this matter, which will be available for review and comment at the appropriate time. In the meantime, if you have questions regarding this issue, I encourage you to reach out to UNM Records Management or the Office of University Counsel for assistance.

Volunteers Needed for Commencement

Do you want to volunteer and have some fun? Join us in celebrating the class of 2017 and assisting at the University Commencement ceremony! The university will have a single Fall 2017 UNM Commencement ceremony in Dreamstyle Arena, on Friday, Dec. 15, at 6 pm. This ceremony will recognize graduates from all degree programs at all levels. Volunteer assignment hours for the Commencement ceremony will be from 4 and 8:30 p.m. Please go to the following link to [sign up to volunteer](#). For more information, visit [University Commencement](#).

UNM Gives

Thank you to everyone who generously made a pledge to the United Way or the UNM Foundation during the [UNM Gives Campaign](#). Because we have received several requests from those who didn't have a chance to pledge, we are still accepting paper pledge forms through Dec. 21. Chancellor Roth and I still plan to each make a personal pizza delivery, if one department reaches a noticeable level of monetary donations, both on Main Campus and at the HSC. Paper pledge forms and instructions can be found at unmgives.unm.edu.

New Mexico Educated Workforce in STEM Symposium

UNM is hosting the first New Mexico Educated Workforce in STEM (NEWS) Symposium, Dec. 19-21, to address “brain drain” or “the process in which a state, such as New Mexico, loses its most educated and talented workforce to other states, through migration, due to lack of apparent opportunities.” To read more about this event, visit [STEM Symposium](#).

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.