



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

As we go into the final week before the winter break, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for an incredible 2017. It never ceases to amaze me when I see the wonderful work that takes place on our campus every day, on the part of our faculty, staff and students. Every day and every semester, we touch others' hearts and minds, and you have done so gently and with respect, while making sure to keep them open for new ideas and experiences. The result of so many small and major interactions in our world-class research, education and service, culminated in our amazing commencement where long-held dreams were realized and new ones were born.

I hope you enjoy the winter break and get to spend some time relaxing, recharging and enjoying life with your loved ones. Whether it's travel or spending time here in Albuquerque, I hope you do what makes you feel most alive.

There is much to look forward to in 2018. With our new president coming on board March 1, the campus will be abuzz with new ideas and initiatives. I look forward to welcoming President Stokes and being a part of her team.

Until then, happy holidays!

Reengineering the University

Throughout this semester, I have presented to various campus groups about my initiative for reengineering the University, in response to demographic trends and shifts, socioeconomic forces, the changing nature of students and their educational needs, and advances in the science of learning and teaching.

In the coming months, I will continue this effort by forming several task forces to tackle some of the challenges that our University faces. I have engaged Mike Dougher, former Senior Vice Provost, to help lead this effort, along with Rich Wood, Acting Provost as of January 1, until I return to that office on March 1. I have discussed this initiative with President Stokes and look forward to working with her to see it through.

Winter Setback Program

As UNM closes its doors for the upcoming [winter break](#), I'd like to remind you about the [PPD Winter Setback Program](#). This program is in its 10th year and has been instrumental in conserving energy and reducing the University's utility costs during this annual closure. Here at UNM, we strive to make the best use of our resources and this is just one of the many ways PPD demonstrates their dedication to providing excellent, efficient service.

UNM Gives

Thank you to everyone who generously made a pledge to the United Way or the UNM Foundation during the [UNM Gives Campaign](#). We are still accepting paper pledge forms through this Thursday, Dec. 21. Chancellor Roth and I 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. If each of us make a small donation, we can collectively have an enormous impact on our community.

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.