



# **State of the University**

**February 28, 2014**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Keller Hall**

**UNM Center for the Arts**

*The following is a text of remarks prepared for delivery by  
President Robert G. Frank at the State of the University Address  
on the 125th anniversary of the founding of the University.*

Good morning and thank you for joining me on this special day, the 125th anniversary of the establishment of The University New Mexico. This day was intentionally chosen for my first State of the University address to the UNM community, as it serves as a milestone that connects our past to our future. Today is about reflection on 125 years marked by growth and progress. It is also about optimism, for what we're doing right now and for what we hope to achieve. Today is especially about saying "thank you". Thank you to the countless individuals who have attended, who have taught at, who have worked at, and who have supported The University of New Mexico. Thank you to the citizens of our great state for believing in UNM and allowing us to serve you through our mission of education, innovation, health care, and community commitment.

Together, we have come a long way since I began my presidency in June of 2012. Our successes have been a result of debate, deliberation, inclusion and testing some uncharted waters. We have taken risks, both large and small, and have repeatedly demonstrated an ability to evolve and grow as circumstances change. The state of The University of New Mexico has been shaped by the UNM2020 vision plan adopted in 2013. This year we are moving beyond our architectural blueprint. We are currently laying the foundation for what will be built over the next several years. We are a university in motion, always on the edge of some new endeavor or discovery. The areas of excellence that are highlighted today are representative of their collective depth and impact.



## Powered by Possible

At UNM we are doing bigger and better things. We are going beyond what we know to create what is new and to achieve what is worthwhile – all of which is powered by “possible.” Not “can’t” and not “shouldn’t.”

Our UNM2020 vision is powered by “possible”. It has been informed by the perspectives, ideas and interactions of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and broader community, which address this important question: “What will The University of New Mexico look like in the year 2020?” What emerged was UNM2020 in the form of seven transformative goals. Achieving this broad and encompassing vision requires taking risk, investing in ourselves, having high expectations, and changing the way we do things.

So, what will transform the University of New Mexico?

1. UNM Will Become A Destination University, an institution that is recognized and sought out by students and faculty globally for its cultural, academic and research distinction, reflected in a diversity of people, ideas, programs and places.
2. UNM Will Prepare Lobos for Lifelong Success, providing an inviting and supportive campus experience. We will prepare our students to meet their long-term goals as lifelong learners in academic and personal achievement, career, and leadership, as well as foster a commitment to community and service.
3. UNM Will Promote Institutional Citizenship, engaging people of all identities, and from all backgrounds, cultures and communities to realize that they are capable of participating in every aspect of University life. These interactions will inform our institutional strategy, practices and culture; bridge our campus to our community; and build knowledge and capacity to solve complex societal challenges.



4. UNM Will Enhance Health & Health Equity in New Mexico, improving public health and health care to the populations we serve, and working with community partners to advance health and health equity in New Mexico. We will provide an excellent education in the health sciences, with a focus on the priority health needs of our communities.

5. UNM Will Advance Discovery & Innovation, promoting collaborations between university researchers and industry partners to further cutting-edge research and strengthen our research enterprise, as well as to advance knowledge and integrate student learning with innovation.

6. UNM Will Ensure Financial Integrity & Strength, operating the University in the context of the new economy. We will raise and invest funds through innovative strategies, recognizing and addressing financial and market realities in higher education, as well as opportunities for gains in efficiency and results oriented management.


7. UNM Will Advance & Accelerate Economic Development, creating public-private partnerships that build a sustainable future and strengthen the state's economy through engaged education, collaborative research, workforce development and the acceleration of new technologies to market. Alongside research faculty, our students will participate in innovative projects that prepare them to become the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Such ambitious goals can only be achieved by a unified institution.

### **E Pluribus UNM**

The Latin phrase E Pluribus Unum is found on the Seal of the United States, and translates to “Out of many, one.” Last February, our Provost posited in one of his weekly Communiqués that we modify the saying to read E Pluribus UNM in order to “remind us that despite our many backgrounds,





areas of expertise, responsibilities and job functions, we must coordinate our efforts in order to succeed. Out of many, UNM. E Pluribus UNM offers us a powerful statement of our institutional commitment to persist as one university, made up of people from many different backgrounds and beliefs, and it challenges us to remain one university, while respecting and valuing the diversity of our parts. We have grown from one building on a windy mesa to a residential urban campus with a comprehensive health sciences center; an inspired athletics complex; branch campuses in Taos, Gallup, Valencia and Los Alamos; and an extension campus in Rio Rancho. We now even have an office in Beijing, China, and will soon have one in Mexico City. Yet we remain one university, with nearly 37,000 students, over 3,500 faculty and over 20,000 employees.

E Pluribus UNM represents the importance of synergy as a concept – the interaction of our people and programs, that when combined produce a total impact that is greater than just the sum of the individual elements. As we enter the 125th year as New Mexico’s flagship university, this synergy continues to play a critical role in shaping our history, our institutional character and what we strive to build for the next generation.

### **The Engaged University**

Engagement is a commitment to sharing and reciprocity, and is elemental to building an innovation culture across all disciplines and programs at UNM and in our communities. An innovation culture should be celebrated everywhere we see it, for that is the only way we can maintain it. This starts with people. We must encourage each other to be creative and feel empowered to succeed.

We have achieved an unprecedented level of community involvement – working to cultivate a knowledge economy, and also to be a good neighbor. We are home to athletic events and art and entertainment venues, which bind

our university to the community. This center, the UNM Center of the Arts, is a great example of that. Did you know that our own UNM Art Museum is the largest collection of fine arts in the state, and one of the best university museum collections in the nation? We are New Mexico.

At the undergraduate level, UNM is meaningfully transforming the student experience. Through the national Foundations of Excellence program, we are creating dynamic learning communities founded on experience, engagement and practice.

We have established the Honors College, which challenges the best and brightest students to bring an interdisciplinary perspective to their engagement with the community. The number of freshmen enrolled in the Honors Program in the Fall of 2012 was 350. Enrollment in the Honors College was more than 600 in Fall 2013. We now reach out to every graduating honors student throughout the state to extend an invitation to attend the University of New Mexico where they will find the opportunity to create their own Lobo Experience. At UNM, our state's brightest students can achieve a unique education, with attention from world-class faculty, at an incredible price. UNM is an outstanding value. Our students' learning experiences will enhance and enrich their understanding of the world and their place in it.

Engaged scholarship is not a passive endeavor. Engaged scholarship develops and translates our academic knowledge, the critical thought process, and community participation into relevant social impact.

Engagement is also the backbone of the Innovate ABQ initiative, one of our greatest achievements over the last year. UNM has come to the table with the star power of our faculty, the energy and creativity of our students and the expertise of STC.UNM. This venture has received overwhelming support and commitment from both public and private partners, who have





made a combined investment of \$7.5 million dollars. Thank you to our public partners supporting this initiative, including Mayor Barry and the City of Albuquerque, the County of Bernalillo and our federal delegation. The Innovate ABQ initiative opens the door for a new Innovation Academy, designed to create a living-learning environment that engages our students in the process of innovation in all of its dimensions.

### **Beyond the Degree**

A student at UNM is not just offered a degree, but an education. The Lobo experience, from classroom to campus to community, prepares our students to leave UNM with the ability to use knowledge in new and creative ways. We are also developing new ways of engaging our undergraduate students in the research enterprise. Above all, research is education.

The campus, the city, the friends and colleagues, the mentorship – the combined experiences that shape our students for the rest of their lives all go beyond the degree.

UNM also connects with the world beyond the degree through our accomplishments and what is given back. At the UNM Health Sciences Center, which incorporates the state's only teaching hospital, this is a part of their institutional DNA. It is here that the next generation of health professionals are trained at the forefront of medical research. The HSC serves all populations in New Mexico, providing access to the highest quality health care.

### **An Inspired Environment**

At UNM, we find the extra in the ordinary by applying creativity and imagination to expand the potential of what can be. The combined physical and intellectual environment found at UNM offers a lively cross-disciplinary



interaction that supports exploration, discovery, and excellence. We prize, support, and facilitate students' journeys to find their passion.

UNM's campus architecture is a unique marriage of New Mexico tradition and modern spaces. Our 10-year capital horizon is influenced by our vision, knowing that great facilities inspire those who use them. We are designing our spaces and buildings for optimal learning experiences, such as the Math MaLL and Collaborative Teaching and Learning Building. We have also invested in a "center for teaching excellence" to explore even better ways of teaching and learning.

We have leveraged public/private partnership to develop on-campus housing to offer more students a residential experience.

Our campus honors our commitment to sustainability as we continue to grow. We have made significant reductions in our carbon footprint and energy use over the past seven years.

Like our state, The University of New Mexico represents an intersection of the arts and science, two dynamic segments that influence our culture and history, and two pillars upon which we continue to build our University vision. The arts and science both necessitate the curiosity to ask a question, to explore the answer, and to take a leap toward the creation of knowledge. New Mexico is known worldwide for its national labs and gifted artists. By integrating across such traditional disciplinary boundaries our scholars and researchers can draw upon various domains of knowledge to engage in creative activity.

### **Diversity of Ideas**

The diversity of ideas we have at UNM is one of our strengths and opportunities as an institution, and it is here where we distinguish ourselves.





By sharing our ideas we empower and innovate to a global audience.

By 2020 we want 100% of our students to have some form of international experience, including internationalization at home. In 2013, we established the Global Education Office, since then, we have increased the number of incoming international students on campus by 13 percent and UNM students who study abroad by 8 percent.

Our knowledge is also enhanced and sustained in the values of respect and understanding of our differences. Last fall, we established the Civil Campus Council. A university campus must be an environment that encourages and celebrates better understanding, and a greater appreciation of the relationship between what we do and how we live.

New Mexico enjoys a cultural diversity not found elsewhere. As a minority-majority, Hispanic-Serving, research institution, we have an opportunity to lead by example in how to define excellence as inclusive. The synergy necessary for us to serve a diverse population needs to continue to be reflected among members of the university community, as well as through our curriculum, research, patient care, and service.

### **Changing Worlds**

UNM has been changing worlds for 125 years. The University of New Mexico began with a gift of land from four pioneering families, and became the site of UNM's first building, now Hodgkin Hall. That gift helped change a territory into a state and laid the groundwork for countless lives to be changed through education, medical care and research. That first gift changed the world for territorial residents then, and for generations to come. It was transformational, and the transformational gifts continue to this day.

Changing Worlds: The Campaign for UNM was well named. It started in





2006, and has raised over \$620 million to date. Nearly 60,000 donors have joined in. For example, Gus Foster's incredible gift of over 300 pieces of contemporary art to UNM's Harwood Museum expanded their collection and will provide delight, education and inspiration for generations to come. Thank you, Gus. The recent founding investment by New Mexico Educator's Federal Credit Union to Innovate ABQ lays the groundwork to link the University to economic growth here in Albuquerque and throughout New Mexico. Thank you to Terry Laudick and all of our partners at New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union for their vision and forward focus. It is not just enormous gifts that change our world. The recent radiothon for UNM Hospitals mobilized hundreds of individuals, corporations and small businesses in support of great care for children and families. Last year more than a quarter of a million dollars was raised through Children's Miracle Network. Thanks to each of our corporate sponsors and to all who gave. Last year close to 15,000 donors contributed \$81.6 million dollars to our campaign, exceeding our goal.

We need to continue to build on UNM's best ideas. Because of the campaign's success, I am announcing today that we are continuing the campaign with a refresh that we will call Changing Worlds 2020: The Campaign for UNM.

Building on the UNM 2020 goals, but with the same emphasis on student success, faculty support, program support and capital projects as before, we want to continue to energize our alumni and friends to make meaningful gifts. Folding in the current campaign results, I am setting a goal: together, let's strive for \$1 billion in private support by the end of 2020. We can do it.

### **Getting There from Here**

So how do we get there from here?

I understand it's always good to quote someone famous in these types of addresses.

To paraphrase the poet Robert Browning, our reach must exceed our grasp. This notion of aspiring to achieve beyond what is certain is powered by “possible”. It is what put a man on the moon; it is what leads to groundbreaking research at UNM; it is what allows our students to achieve a college education.

The “State of The University of New Mexico” is truly exciting. We have set goals that strive beyond certainty. We are challenging ourselves. We are doing what is right. We are moving quickly and deliberately and seeing results. At this time at UNM, we embrace the changing landscape of higher education, anticipating the expectations to deliver quality teaching and research experiences, and fulfilling our expanding role in society. I hope that at this point on the 150th anniversary of the UNM, our time and our vision is remembered as one of both tradition and transformation.

As I said earlier, today is time for saying “thank you.” I would like to conclude by extending my deepest thanks to the entire UNM community: to our students, faculty, staff, regents, alumni, donors, parents, retirees, community leaders and citizens of New Mexico. Thank you for your participation, enthusiasm, criticism, passion and dedication for building a better UNM. To my wife, Janet, a special thanks for her unwavering support of me. My thanks to all of you, in advance, for all of the work that is yet to come. It is truly an honor to be the President of this university and I look forward to working with you to build an ever better UNM.

Happy Birthday UNM, and GO LOBOS!

