



## President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning,

Last Monday was a holiday and I hope you were able to take some time to reflect on the contributions to our Nation made by Martin Luther King, Jr. His leadership and commitment to justice and equality for all people continues to reverberate through our society today. We are all enriched by his life and his contributions.

### **Black History Month**

Friday marks the beginning of Black History Month, which had its origins back in 1926 because of the efforts of one man, Carter Woodson. Self-educated as a child with only intermittent access to schooling, Dr. Woodson went on to become the second African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. He was a man who truly knew and understood the great power of education to open doors, open minds, and change lives. His unwavering commitment to education not only enriched his own life, but also ours, though the contributions he made to research, knowledge and community.

Dr. Woodson established the second week in February as "Negro History Week," but it was the leaders of the Black Students United from my former institution, Kent State, that expanded on his vision to establish "Black History Month" in 1969. In 1976, the Federal government formalized the expansion. I hope you will be able to participate in some of the many community events during February honoring Black history, and the great contributions of African-Americans past and present.

### **Rainforest in the Desert**

Victor Hwang, keynote speaker at our Economic Summit in September, and author of the book, "The Rainforest: The Secret to Building the Next Silicon Valley," is coming back to Albuquerque to continue his work with UNM's economic development initiatives. On Tuesday morning, Feb. 5, he will be holding a community forum at the Kimo Theatre in downtown Albuquerque from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. He will be speaking in greater depth about the rainforest concept for economic development, and the critical role of community in fostering and supporting an eco-system of innovation and entrepreneurship.

UNM is co sponsoring this event with the Downtown Action Team and the City of Albuquerque. We have arranged a special student price of \$10 (use promo code LOB0) and a reduced Faculty and staff price of \$15.

### **Women of Influence: Student Leaders**

One of the most impressive aspects of our University is the caliber of our student leaders. Our February edition of Connect ED, our UNM insert in the weekly Albuquerque Business First newspaper will focus on Women of Influence. Marisa Silva, president of GPSA, and Caroline Muraida, president of ASUNM, will be featured for their leadership and contributions. It is a very challenging task, to be a student while also serving in a leadership capacity. I have had the honor to work with both Marisa and Caroline since coming to UNM, and I have been impressed most by their ability to focus on the goals of their own organizations while also working collaboratively to advance the goals of UNM students. Both women bring integrity, commitment and passion to their service, and their peer mentoring of each other

is a demonstration of the power of open minds and mutual respect to accomplish great things. We are fortunate to have women of such influence leading our student body.

### **UNM Area Transportation Improvements Public Forum**

Transportation is an important issue for our campus. On Wednesday, Jan. 30, you have a chance to provide your input to the Mid-Region Council of Governments. MRCOG will host a public forum on campus to solicit feedback on near – and long-term transit, land use, and parking strategies in the UNM/CNM/Sunport area. Scheduled from 12 to 1 p.m. in Lobo A&B in the Student Union Building, the public meeting is part of a series of meetings and workshops that began last fall. The UNM/CNM/Sunport corridor is considered the region's largest activity center - attracting more than 74,000 people every day. While the area has excellent east/west transit service on Lomas and Central, it lacks adequate north/south transit connections. The campus community and members of the public are invited to review and respond to several possible strategies – including new transit routes. For more information please go to the UNM/CNM/Sunport Study Project Website: <http://mrcog-nm.gov/special-studies-mainmenu-202/unm-cnm-study>

Have a good week, and Go Lobos!

Bob