



President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

Much of the fundamental knowledge necessary for world-changing discoveries takes place in research universities such as ours, where faculty and students work together to solve some of the world's most pressing challenges. Of the 2,618 accredited four-year colleges and universities in the United States, roughly 100 are classified as "research extensive" in the classification established by the Carnegie Foundation for Higher Education. The University of New Mexico bears this prestigious distinction, and our academic research and innovations are critical to shared economic and social success.

Research for the Greater Good

Research and discovery are driven by societal needs, and have led to innovations in areas such as health, education, and sustainability that improve the quality of people's lives. Research at UNM embodies a commitment to apply our discoveries to improve the human condition, and it manifests itself in many ways across the University. Demonstrating how we use research to make a difference, the Center for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) at the [Mind Research Network](#) and Computer Engineering and Executive Science Officer of the MRN, received this important grant to continue studying schizophrenia and expand the research to include a wider range of disease categories to better understand the neural and genetic mechanisms of psychosis and mood disorders. As our research grows, so do the opportunities for our students to be involved in addressing many of the environmental, medical, social, economic, and political challenges facing the global community.

A Formula for Success

Over the course of three days last week, we were able to showcase our campus and Lobo spirit to the Legislative Finance Committee, as well as take part in critical dialogue related to the state's funding of our public institutions of higher education.

During the course of these discussions, I stated the need for three separate mission-based funding formulas for the research, comprehensive and two-year institutions for higher education appropriations, and that such a distributed model can be created to be equitable to all institutions and more transparent than a single formula. We have striven for transparency and accountability, both internally and externally. Distributed allocations of funding that are more transparent, and segregation by the mission of each sector will allow the legislature, local government, and the public to know exactly what each institution is doing with that money. One formula puts us in competition among ourselves for the same pot of money. Be assured that I am committed to working with my colleagues at the state colleges and universities to develop the best vision for funding with a focus on student success.

Leading by Example

Earlier this spring I announced that Big Brothers Big Sisters had launched a new mentoring program called [mentor2.0](#) that works to place mentors with ninth grade students at South Valley Academy located on Coors and Black SW. mentor2.0 supports high-impact mentoring relationships, aimed at providing these high school students with the support and guidance they need to graduate high school

and succeed in college and the workforce. Our goal is to match every incoming freshman at this school with a UNM mentor. I realize we all work very hard to create balance in our time for work, family and service.

The program is a fun and easy way to get involved in the community and make a difference, and could be your opportunity to make a positive impact on a young person's life. Many thanks to those who have already signed up! If you are able, I hope you will consider joining me in making mentor2.0 a success. If you are interested in participating in the program and are faculty or an exempt staff member, please request and complete the [UNM Interest Form](#) and return it to LaTrenia McDaniel, the UNM liaison for mentor2.0, at 505-277-2695 or lmcdaniel@unm.edu.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob