



President's Weekly Perspective

“Close partnerships with the surrounding community help demonstrate that higher education is about important values such as informed citizenship and a sense of responsibility. The newer forms of public scholarship and community-based learning help produce civic-minded graduates who are as well prepared to take up the complex problems of our society as they are to succeed in their careers.”

– The Kellogg Commission

Good morning.

Engagement has been a frequent topic of my communications, and I would like to extend the broad concept of engagement to include outreach as a fundamental driver to our success at UNM based on tenets established by [The Ohio State University Office of Outreach and Engagement](#): Meaningful and mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborations are central to both the definitions of engagement and outreach. We are fortunate to have numerous statewide opportunities for our students, faculty and staff to enrich UNM's partnerships within New Mexico's communities. These collaborations drive our mission: the *research* that makes our discoveries beneficial beyond the academic community, the *teaching* that enables learning beyond the boundaries of our campuses, and the *service* that directly benefits the public.

Established and Potential Connections

While it is evident that we apply teaching, research and service to address complex societal challenges, we do a great job of having just plain good, long-standing relationships with people in every corner of New Mexico. I had the pleasure of traveling to Hobbs last week with Coaches Ray Birmingham and Bob Davie. Since this is Ray's hometown, we spent time being introduced throughout Hobbs and met with many of his friends and fans. We quickly figured out that Coach Davie also has a growing fan base in the southeastern part of our state. We also spent time at New Mexico Junior College (NMJC), an impressive institution with which we want to work to strengthen our partnership.

Many NMJC students transfer to UNM to continue their education in medical or teaching professions. President Steve McCleery has dedicated the upper level of the school's library to helping students make connections with UNM and other local universities. He also expressed a great interest in teaming up with us in the areas of research and economic development. We did some brainstorming, as well, with Bob Reid, executive director of the Maddox Foundation, about opportunities to collaborate on creative ways to help New Mexico students. We have a successful joint project between Maddox Foundation, Lea County Hospital, UNM, and NMJC that provides free room and board to UNMH medical students and residents in order for them to study within the community>

Higher Education is About Vision and Opportunity

The University of New Mexico began with a vision and 75 students who represented a hope for and belief in higher education for New Mexico. Today, we are the flagship university, with a student body of

almost 37,000 statewide. We have been growing for more than 120 years, and responding to the needs of our students and the communities we serve.

For more than 20 years, UNM has had a presence in Rio Rancho. Three years ago, UNM opened the doors to the UNM West campus at the invitation of the citizens and leadership Rio Rancho, who had a vision for higher education, much the same as those New Mexicans had over a century ago. Our recent collaboration with CNM is reflective of our mission and why we develop community campuses... to create opportunities for students.

We want to keep our kids in their communities, avoiding the "brain drain" that leaves areas struggling to be economically viable. I have a strong sense of optimism about the opportunities that lie ahead for the continued growth and success of UNM West campus and the community it serves, and I am committed to focusing on constructive solutions that benefit the citizens of Rio Rancho, and developing educational programs that support key sectors of the city's economic and social development.

<http://www.abqjournal.com/226274/riowest/higher-education-fundamental-to-city-of-vision.html>

Service to those to Serve Our Country

The number of veterans enrolling in higher education over the last few years has increased significantly; at UNM, we have seen an 88 percent increase in enrollment since 2009. Our [Veterans' Resource Center](#) is committed to supporting the success of our veterans and to helping create a campus climate for them that is inclusive of their unique talents and experiences. This fall, UNM is introducing a new course planned to utilize military leadership and skills in the transition to academia. The [Transition, Resiliency and Leadership](#) course (COUN 492) has been designed to help our student veterans and military personnel translate many of their acquired skills in leadership and resilient response to trying conditions to aid and improve their academic success. It is also intended to provide a supportive and collaborative community of peers.

Thanks to UNM PPD for Quick Response

Our campus was hit pretty hard by Friday night's storm. Thankfully there was no major structural damage to our buildings and we were able to maintain power due to our Ford Utility plant, which supplies power to the main campus. Sadly, we did lose some very old trees, among them three 80-year-old Ponderosa Pines near the Anthropology building, as well several others across campus. Many thanks to the PPD Grounds and Landscaping staff for acting quickly in the clean-up efforts over the weekend. It will take most of this week to finish clearing debris around the rest of our campus, so please respect the staff working and avoid these areas in order to maintain everyone's safety.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob