



President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

To our students and faculty, welcome back from what I hope was a wonderful spring break! Evolving as a university to keep up with the needs of our students and demands of the workforce requires change, taking some calculated risks, and challenging some traditional notions of how we become successful. In order to solve complex problems and deliver unique, innovative solutions it is critical to build our reach – as individuals, departments, schools and programs, and as an institution. Our willingness to be bold in order to advance student success will allow us to expand our UNM community and our capabilities as an institution.

UNM's First MOOC Goes Live

One of our faculty members, whose willingness to take a risk has already led to the opening of UNM's doors to the world beyond our classrooms. Greg Heileman, associate provost for Curriculum and professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is breaking new ground for UNM as our first professor to teach a [MOOC \(Massive Open Online Course\) through Coursera](#), an education platform that brings 108 institutions worldwide together to offer free courses. Greg's course, [Web Application Architectures](#), begins today and has already drawn more than 17,000 people as of the end of last week. MOOCs are a relatively new trend in the delivery of education, could open up possibilities to complement our traditional academic programs for our faculty and lifelong learners around the globe.

Global Opportunity

One of the top priorities set at the beginning of my presidency was to increase our global initiatives, both on and off campus. We have made great strides in the establishment of the Global Education Office (GEO), and increasing the number of international students and number of students who study abroad. We now have a singular opportunity for [UNM to be one of five institutions to develop a Sino-foreign university partnership](#) in Lanzhou, China. This initiative is still in the formative stage, where our faculty are being engaged to determine how the delivery of our UNM curriculum in China may be successfully developed. Faculty work groups are being created to address curricular and governance issues, as well as the quality of such a partnership. There are a lot of questions to be answered and more work to do, but we may never be in the position again to bring two worlds together in the creation of such a cross-cultural educational partnership.

Making History

Keeping our academic programs relevant and marketable while retaining their integrity is becoming increasingly important and challenging our faculty to assess new ways of approaching how to ensure that our graduates leave UNM prepared for careers that may not follow traditional trajectories, especially at the Doctoral level. Our faculty are thought leaders when it comes to making these important assessments on a national scale. Though their scholarship is focused on the past, the faculty of the UNM Department of History has demonstrated innovation as a distinct part of their culture. The [American Historical Association \(AHA\) recently announced the award of a \\$1.6 million grant](#), funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, to four doctoral departments of History – at Columbia University, and

the Universities of California at Los Angeles, Chicago and New Mexico – to fund pilot projects that can increase the spectrum of career opportunities for history doctoral graduates. Kudos to UNM's Virginia Scharff, Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Distinguished Professor of History, who is the principal investigator for the UNM Department of History. Her work on these “reforms...could change Ph.D. education in the field.”

Requesting Feedback for Improved Communication

When I began my presidency I made a commitment to email the UNM community weekly to share news and thoughts on issues that impact our University and its students, faculty and staff. That was almost two years ago, and in that time I have received a lot of feedback from those who receive the President's Weekly Perspective, which has helped me to continually better my communication efforts. I would like to expand on that constructive advice to better understand your thoughts on how I can improve the message. My thanks to University Communication and Marketing (UCAM) for creating the following short survey, which will be open for the next two weeks. I hope you will take the time to participate in the [President's Weekly Perspective survey](#).

Although the Lobos did not advance in the NCCA Tournament this past weekend, I would like to extend my great appreciation to Coach Neal and the student-athletes of the men's basketball team for representing the University to a national audience. Thanks also to our many fans that regularly filled the Pit and travelled the country in support of UNM this season.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob