



## President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

Kevin Carey's policy brief "[Building a New AAU: The Case for Redefining Higher Education Excellence](#)," addresses a fundamental question necessary to our future success: what does it mean to be a 21st century university? He frames the question in the context of "19th century values [being] in direct conflict with America's 21st century educational priorities," and suggests a shift in perspective, where institutions of higher learning focus their commitment to affordable and accessible undergraduate education, in addition to their research missions. The brief created a "New AAU" membership, evaluating 203 public and private "High Research Activity" or "Very High Research Activity" Carnegie classified universities and ranking them "using measures designed to gauge their commitment to research, scholarship and furthering the public interest of helping substantial numbers of diverse students earn quality degrees." In this 21st Century version of the AAU, UNM ranked 39th, among a prestigious list of universities. Our ranking, in part, reflected, our diversity and our balance between scholarship and undergraduate education. This distinction between undergraduate and graduate education is something we have taken measures to acknowledge and address at a number of levels.

### Spring Graduation Reviews

The recent decision to hold two separate commencement ceremonies for undergraduate and graduate students was a deliberate effort to create an atmosphere that most effectively recognizes the successes of both graduate and undergraduate students. This was also well received by our students, the majority of whom – baccalaureate, masters and doctoral candidates – reported a very high satisfaction level with the decision on a recent survey.

This is just the beginning of this very important dialogue. I will continue to explore this theme in future writings and encourage your input by emailing me at [unmpres@unm.edu](mailto:unmpres@unm.edu), subject line 21st Century UNM.

### Great Facilities Supported by Great People

It goes without saying that we are fortunate to work, research and learn in an extraordinary environment, one of Albuquerque's most beautiful public places, and we owe much of that to our Physical Plant Department's commitment to excellence. [APPA, Leadership in Education Facilities](#), is an association of approximately 1,500 institutions that emphasizes excellence in managing facilities in today's educational environment. Congratulations to UNM PPD on receiving the [APPA Award for Excellence for 2014](#), which has been awarded to only 81 organizations, including the Smithsonian Institution. This is the highest honor awarded by this international organization, and I am so pleased to see these important members of our staff receive this level of recognition.

### North Golf Course

A major part of our great open space is our North Golf Course, which will re-open this Saturday after a \$1.5 million renovation. The Grand Reopening Putting Ceremony will be on Friday, June 13 at 2:30 p.m. There are two great events this weekend to explore the renovated course, including the [BernCo](#)

[Open Space Fun Run](#) on Saturday, June 14 at 9 a.m. This is one of many treasures on the UNM campus, and I encourage you to join us as we celebrate the University and the county's work to improve the community.

### **Festival Flamenco at UNM**

The internationally recognized flamenco program at UNM is supported by an outstanding and passionate faculty as well as a distinctive partnership with the National Institute of Flamenco. This fortunate affiliation connects us to the [Festival Flamenco](#), which allows us to host select festival performances on campus. This evening, Janet and I will attend ¡AY! Eva Yerbabuena Ballet Flamenco, at Rodey Theater, where one of the world's greatest flamenco dancers and her company will perform. These events are a wonderful opportunity to see an evening of great artistry.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob