

July 7, 2014



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday weekend.

July is [Staff Appreciation Month](#), an important celebration of the “Heart of the University.” It would not be possible for UNM to serve thousands of students and hundreds of thousands of citizens statewide without the dedication and efforts of our staff. You keep our campus clean and safe, guide our students from first year to last, preserve our resources and culture, partner with our faculty, and lead our operations. Thank you for all that you do, and a special thanks to Staff Council who organized all of the staff events this month.

Congrats to our Brilliant Minds

The National Academy of Inventors just released the “Top 100 Worldwide U.S. Utility Patents for 2013”. The University of New Mexico, through STC, our Science and Technology Corporation for patent registration, ranked 56th in the world! It is important to note that the United States is a great place of opportunity for patent registration, thus scientists and entrepreneurs want to register here. This ranking demonstrates the ingenuity, hard work and success of our faculty (and students) in registering patents. Congratulations to Lisa Kuuttilla and her staff at STC and to our faculty for this huge success! Keep it up!

Time to Unwind

I recognize how hard everyone on this campus works, and I want to stress the importance of taking care of ourselves in our work and personal lives. In my two years at UNM I have been impressed by the dedication of faculty and staff. I have worked at three major universities, and I have never seen faculty and staff who give so much. Despite this dedication, we teach, learn, create and perform better when we are focused and energized, and sometimes the only way to finish great work is to step away and come back refreshed.

A great advantage of working at UNM is vacation time. Annual Leave is an important benefit afforded to all of our employees, and I hope that it is being used to its full potential. I will not be sending out my Weekly Perspective for a couple of weeks as I will be traveling, partly to enjoy some much needed family time.

“Time away from work, school, and the stress of a busy lifestyle is crucial to revitalizing (or renewing) your brain health. By denying our brains a vacation, we diminish our ability to think creatively and strategically tackle complex problems.” – Sandra Bond Chapman, Ph.D. [“Why Your Mind Needs a Break”](#)

This applies to our students as well. Many of you stay busy with summer courses and increased work hours, and I am happy to see such ambition. Summer is a great time to catch up or speed up a degree track, but please remember to take a break to unwind, too, because the next semester will be here before you know it.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob