



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

Giving Back

With the holiday season upon us, this is a time of year to think about what we are thankful for, and to consider the ways that we can give back and make our community better. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the United Way campaign! The University as a whole increased in participation, meaning that more people committed to giving than in our previous campaign. This is a great achievement.

There are several other ways to give back. One opportunity is the Lobo Food Pantry, organized by the Dean of Students Office. The [Lobo Food Pantry](#) will be in South Lot this Friday, and the initiative will continue once a month next spring. The office appreciates any volunteer support.

The [UNM Foundation will have limited hours during the break](#), but will continue to accept gifts during the break, meaning that donors can still apply tax benefits in 2014. Donations to the University support many programs and individuals through scholarships, endowments and other intended purposes.

The generosity of the Lobo family is astounding, and I applaud all of you for giving back in a variety of ways.

LOBOMotorSports

I continue to receive emails about our outstanding individuals. Recently I also received an email calling out an amazing program that deserves recognition. The [LOBOMotorSports Formula SAE program was ranked 5th](#) this year in the nation and 18th worldwide. Congratulations to program director John Russell and this extraordinary team. This is a very competitive ranking and a grand testament to our students, staff and faculty in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Our students have gone on to intern at and work for companies like Tesla, Ford and Toyota. While I don't think I could drive one of your racecars, I would be proud to someday drive a car designed in part by a Lobo alum.

Year-end Notes

Next week will be a very short week, so this will be my last weekly message of the year. Here are a few year-end reminders.

All faculty and staff, please remember to complete your 2014 University-Wide [required training](#) by Wednesday, Dec. 31.

To everyone on the main campus, the [9th Winter Setback Program](#) will begin on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Last week I sent an email detailing the concerted effort to reduce the University's energy consumption. Our Physical Plant Department will lower controlled building temperatures in areas not utilized during the break. The buildings will return to normal temperatures on Monday, Jan. 5, 2015. Thank you for supporting this energy conservation program and upholding our value in sustainability.

If you missed the 2014 Hanging of the Greens earlier this month, or do not know about this unique UNM tradition, I encourage you to watch this [video](#) created by Ryan Montano in University Communication & Marketing.

I know that many of you have vacations and projects planned for the break. Have fun! And recharge. I will see you all in 2015, ready for another great semester.

Have a great week and enjoy the winter break! Go Lobos!

Bob