



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

Lobos for Life, you inspire us all

Each year spring commencement is followed by a stark change in the energy at UNM. As commencements and celebrations come to an end, there seems to be a change of pace for all of us who continue to work on campus. This is an opportunity for us to gear up for the summer and fall semesters, with a fresh reminder of why we do our jobs.

Several stories were published in the [UNM Newsroom](#) about inspirational graduation stories from the students we have served. I encourage you to read these remarkable stories, and take pride in your impact on every student who attends our distinct institution.

Bilinski Cohort Announcement

The Bilinski Educational Foundation offers an outstanding fellowship opportunity that furthers their goal to fund “post-secondary education for students who have demonstrated, and are likely to maintain, both the highest academic achievement and good moral character, but who lack the financial resources to pay for the highest caliber post-secondary education.”

Congratulations to five doctoral students in the College of Arts & Sciences who were selected by the Bilinski Fellowship Selection Committee for the 2015 award. Melvatha Chee and Corinne Occhino-Kehoe (Linguistics), Rachel Levitt (American Studies), Carson Morris (History) and Stephanie Spong (English) will complete dissertations on topics ranging from how the PTA taught parents to become political activists, to what it means to be viewed as LGBT and “bullied,” to how children learn to speak Navajo. These students were selected because they “stand out for their potential impact on both scholarship and community.”

Ombuds for Staff

We are celebrating 20 years of promoting constructive conflict management on campus in the Office of Ombuds Services/Dispute Resolution for Staff. I am pleased to announce that this office now reports administratively to the Office of the President, because they are key partners in making UNM a great place to work.

Staff Ombuds Services offers confidential, informal, impartial and independent support for UNM staff members who want to build workplace communication and collaborate to resolve workplace issues. Staff members who have used this confidential service consistently state that they've felt heard, that they received a new perspective or useful information, and that they would recommend Ombuds Services to others. If you're wondering whether a visit to this office might be helpful in your situation, call 277-2993 or visit their [website](#).

Memorial Day Reflection

A University is an extraordinary place where freedom of opinion and speech are not only encouraged, they are expected in order for us to advance our institutional mission. These freedoms are protected by the brave men and women in our military. Next Monday, please take a moment in your day to remember our nation's heroes who have given their lives so that we remain a free country. I hope you have an enjoyable weekend and meaningful Memorial Day.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob