



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

Living Cities Successes

Last week, along with Mayor Richard Berry and Nusenda Credit Union CEO Terry Laudick, I had the pleasure of welcoming to Albuquerque Ben Hecht, the CEO of the [Living Cities Foundation](#). You might recall that last year Albuquerque received a planning grant from the Living Cities Integration Initiative. UNM and Innovate ABQ were key pillars in the successful grant proposal, and we are excited to have completed our planning year and are looking forward to the next phase of implementation. The cornerstone of Ben's visit to Albuquerque was a celebratory dinner that congratulated people from across our community who played a key role in the planning process.

The highlight of the evening came from proud Lobo alumnus Hakim Bellamy, who delivered an incredible performance of his poem, City "A" live. Hakim is currently the director of Community Outreach for the City of Albuquerque and Albuquerque's inaugural poet laureate. I encourage you to listen to his [performance of the poem](#), from which I am including an excerpt below. I hope that it inspires you in the same way that it did me.

"There's a City inside me where innovation is a survival skill that we used to call "making lemonade," and long before that referred to as adobe, acequias, swamp coolers and cliff dwellings. Where people feel part of something. Where everyone is part owner of the success, and trial and error is just part of the rent. Where we face tough problems, but we're tougher."

Leading the School of Law

Congratulations to the [newly-appointed co-deans at the UNM School of Law](#), Alfred Mathewson and Sergio Pareja. Last week, Provost Chaouki Abdallah announced the co-deans, who were both selected through an internal search. Both men are currently professors at the school who have contributed their experience and knowledge for many years. I have no doubt that the co-deans will take the School of Law to the next level through this joint leadership.

Thank you to Provost Abdallah and the search committee for diligently working to select not one, but two extraordinary candidates. A lot of research and planning was done before deciding to move to a co-dean model, and it is clear that this is in the best interest of the school and the University.

Have a great week and go Lobos!

Bob