



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

Albuquerque Public Education

I had the pleasure of meeting the new Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) Superintendent Dr. Luis Valentino last week, and I am happy to see that APS is in great hands with his leadership. UNM and APS are partners in education. Many UNM students come from APS high schools, and many UNM graduates work at APS. The new superintendent and I will work to ensure that education in our community is a seamless road to success. We also continue to work closely with APS, Central New Mexico Community College, and many public and private partners on [Mission: Graduate](#), an effort to help students excel in academic environments and make education attainable for all central New Mexico youth. Dr. Valentino has great experience prior to coming New Mexico and is dedicated to making a difference, clearly the right person for this big job.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentorship

In addition to our formal partnerships such as Mission: Graduate, many UNM staff and faculty members support young students to reach college goals through volunteer opportunities like the [Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentor2.0 program](#). I am proud to say that Lobos make up a significant portion of the mentors that guide and encourage students in the program. I would like to express appreciation for everyone who gives time to the organization. Big Brothers Big Sisters is now calling for more male volunteers. Currently women volunteers outnumber male volunteers, so the organization is running a "[60 Men in 60 Days](#)" campaign. Please consider giving a bit of your time to positively influence New Mexico's youth.

Leading the Physical Plant Department

Congratulations to Jeff Zumwalt for his recent appointment as the permanent director of the Physical Plant Department (PPD), where he will be able to continue the momentum that he has built as the interim director.

PPD is one of the University's largest departments, and as I have said many times before, one of the most critical. It is the PPD staff's skilled work that allows UNM to operate smoothly, and I know that under Jeff's leadership, the department will continue to enhance their record of innovation and expertise. For example, the University was recently awarded the [PNM Energy Efficiency Star Award](#) for the second year in a row. This is thanks to PPD's constant work to update our facilities and systems with high sustainability standards.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob