



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Safety and Welfare Training

As president, no issue is more important to me than the safety and welfare of our students and the entire UNM community. As part of our on-going efforts, we have obtained an excellent new course in “Preventing Discrimination and Harassment” that is now available to all our faculty and staff through UNM’s [Learning Central](#).

This course is mandatory, which means that every UNM employee is required to complete it by Dec. 31. However, I urge you not to put it off. Take time right away so you can begin the new semester with a fresh understanding of your responsibilities and ways you can make our environment better for you, your colleagues, and our students. Federal requirements and UNM policies have changed recently, so there is much to learn. I think you will be impressed by the quality of the presentation and the importance of the content. Thank you for everything you do to show your respect for each other and protect the pack—please add this training to your skill set soon.

Karen A. Abraham Courtyard

There has been recent news about the landscaping project gift to UNM from our Alumni Association – the [Karen A. Abraham Courtyard](#). This project will beautify the outdoor space adjacent to Hodgin Hall and honor a beloved and admired long-time employee, Karen Abraham, who led alumni relations at UNM for many years before her recent retirement. We are working closely with Alumni Vice President Dana Allen and the Alumni Association Board to ensure that the project fulfills the area’s need for improvement while meeting everyone’s expectations. I would especially like to thank the Association’s President, Mr. James Lewis, for his leadership in this project and all other alumni initiatives. A special thank you the full Alumni Association Board as well for the generosity and appreciation demonstrated with this gift. Once a Lobo, always a Lobo! Thank you, Alumni.

Olympic Excitement

Like many of you, I spent several hours this weekend watching the Olympics, and thoroughly enjoying every minute of it. Yesterday, swimming star Katie Ledecky set a world record in the Women’s 400-meter freestyle, bringing home another Team USA gold medal. What you may not know is that her mother, [Mary Gen Hagan](#), swam for The University of New Mexico and made waves of her own. Led by then swimming coach Rick Klatt, whom I had the pleasure of being an assistant coach while I was in graduate school, Mary Gen was ranked top 20 nationally for the 200-yard freestyle. She then became a Lobo staff member, working as a hospital administrator at UNMH for CEO Steve McKernan.

There are [several Lobos competing in Rio](#) as well. I'll be keeping an eye on all of them as the games continue, and encourage you to do the same. Thank you to the Student Activities Center for coordinating [Olympic Viewing Parties in SUB](#).

Information Technology Review

As many of you are aware, we are in the process of several organizational reviews to evaluate opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of administrative services campus-wide. With regard to main campus Information Technologies (IT), an external consultant (the Technology Integration Group) is conducting the review. During the past three months, they have met with hundreds of people across campus to gather input and analyze our current IT structure and effectiveness. The final recommendations are still forthcoming, but it has become clear that we are moving toward a newly envisioned IT organization that differs in size and scope from its current structure.

Our current CIO has been effective with the current mandate, and we sincerely appreciate his service to UNM. However, we believe that moving in this new direction requires new leadership of the IT organization. We have notified the CIO that his contract will not be renewed in January, and have begun an internal search for an interim CIO to fill this position. Once an interim is in place and the consultant's report is finalized, we will hold town halls with the campus community to discuss the forthcoming recommendations and review implementation plans.

More details will be provided as they become available. I deeply appreciate the campus community's engagement in these efforts thus far. Transitions of this type are never easy, especially when personnel changes are required. Thanks again to everyone who is working so conscientiously on this and all the other review efforts.

Have a great week, and Go Lobos!

Bob