



## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

### **Innovation Academy**

The Innovation Academy invites students, staff and faculty to a [speaker series event tomorrow](#), Sept. 13 from 6 to 7 p.m. with UNM alumnus Simon Arkell. There is a lot to learn from Simon's successes, challenges, opportunities and adventures. I encourage students from all disciplines, business and otherwise, to attend this session if possible.

### **Awarding Excellence**

Last week, our Alumni Association announced the [2016 Lobo, Zia and Inspirational Young Alumnus award](#) recipients. Robert Solenberger received the Lobo Award for his significant contributions and achievements as a physician and colonel in the U.S. Army. The Young Alumnus Award recipient is Bridgit Lujan, founder of Dulce Flamenco International, Inc., a national touring dance company. The Zia Awards honoring outstanding alumni who make their home in New Mexico went to Celia Foy Castillo, Kenneth Gonzales, Gary Gordon, James Miller, Carol Pierce, and Randy Royster. Congratulations to all of our outstanding alumni award winners.

### **Rio Grande Rivalry**

Our Lobos played an exciting game on Saturday against the NMSU Aggies. Losing by only by one point was tough, but strong competition makes for an exciting rivalry. We'll be taking on Rutgers on Sept. 17 where we are working with our Alumni Association to host a road game tailgate for all of our east coast fans. Lobo Football is back on Oct. 1 for our homecoming game against San José State. I hope to see you there. Go Lobos!

### **Continuous Improvement Necessary for a Future-Forward UNM**

We have heard a lot about the concerns about State and University budgets in recent weeks. We can expect this topic, and the way in which we respond, to be part of many critical conversations over the next several months. UNM has implemented numerous approaches to cost containment, cost avoidance, enhancing efficiency, and generating new revenue over the past several years. We will continue to institute measures that align with our mission and best serve our students and the citizens of New Mexico by simplifying processes, eliminating the duplication of efforts, and optimizing available resources. The measures we have taken since this past spring in examining the areas of legal counsel, IT, marketing and communication, and finance are allowing UNM to make important adjustments for the future, such as the recent [changes in IT](#). I will continue to inform the UNM community as the research and recommendations for the greater success of our university are assessed and incorporated into our institutional strategy.

## **Andrew Cullen Retiring from the Office of Budget and Planning**

UNM is very fortunate to have staff who spend an entire career honing their skills and advancing to leadership positions within the University. I would like to congratulate [Andrew Cullen on his retirement](#) after 27.5 years at UNM, where he began as a temp and worked his way up to be the associate vice president for Planning, Budget and Analysis. He has been an incredible asset during challenging times. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors!

Have a great week, and Go Lobos!

Bob