



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



October 15, 2018

Good afternoon.

Remembering Lifelong Lobo - the Honorable Lorenzo “Larry” Larrañaga

Last week our state lost a beloved statesman and lifelong Lobo, the Honorable State Representative and past Chairman of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, Lorenzo “Larry” Larrañaga. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1971 and his M.S. in Engineering in 1980. Chairman Larrañaga used his education to make our state a better place for all New Mexicans. He was a selfless public servant from an early age, a soldier in the Army from 1961 to 1963, and an engineer for the New Mexico Highway Department, where he eventually became the Cabinet Secretary. He later continued his legacy of public service as the Deputy Chief Administrator for the City of Albuquerque.

Chairman Larrañaga was elected to the New Mexico House of Representatives in 1995, where he showcased his understanding of the value and impact higher education had on his life and career. He focused much of his policy-making on ensuring UNM and higher education in New Mexico is affordable for students, while establishing the institutions as premier places for faculty to teach and conduct research. One of the first votes Chairman Larrañaga made was for the creation of the Legislative Lottery Scholarship Fund, which has benefited tens of thousands of New Mexicans. Chairman Larrañaga was also instrumental in establishing the NM Higher Education Endowment Fund, which helps colleges and universities attract the best faculty to New Mexico. He led the legislative charge to modernize our facilities - including the Centennial Engineering building, the health education facilities, and the Physics, Astronomy, and Interdisciplinary Science (PAÍS) building to name a few. One can hardly walk through campus without seeing the impact Chairman Larrañaga had on our community.

Chairman Larrañaga was a true statesman who regularly reached across the political aisle to make New Mexico a better place, putting citizens above politics. I [echo HSC Chancellor Paul Roth](#) in asking the community to take time to reflect on his impact and continue his legacy of service. He was a champion of UNM in the legislature and will be greatly missed.

Modernizing Campus Facilities

This week, we celebrate another step forward in modernizing our facilities on campus. The [Beam Raising Ceremony for PAÍS](#) will be held Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 11 a.m. on the northeast corner of Redondo Drive and Yale Mall. The state-of-the-art facility will be a hub of innovation and research, while providing space for students, faculty, and staff to collaborate on many of the leading problems facing the world today. It is made possible by [General Obligation \(GO\) Bond money](#) approved by New Mexico voters in 2016. GO Bonds are pivotal for our ability to continue updating and building facilities, like PAÍS, which attract top caliber students and faculty.

Yet again this year, your vote could make a difference on the UNM Campus, with Bond D for higher education and Bond B for libraries on the ballot. [Absentee voting began last week](#) and early voting, including polling sites at the SUB, starts Oct. 20 and continues through Nov. 3. Election day is Nov. 6. It is important to let your voice be heard.

Joining with International Partners

The UNM Health Sciences Center is the premier institute for medical learning in our state and is now drawing an international audience. The Basic Advance Trauma Computer Assisted Virtual Experience (BATCAVE) was recently used as [a training ground for health practitioners from Argentina](#). The program aims to advance medical technology in that country and increase the effectiveness of its academic medicine institutions. The technological advances at UNM are not only being used to train our own students, but to cross-train practitioners around the world—yet another example of UNM's global teaching and patient care impact.

UNM Leadership Searches

Each member of our university leadership serves as an anchor to our institutional mission, strategy, and vision in their respective areas. We have carefully laid the groundwork for three critical positions to be filled here at UNM: Vice President for Equity and Inclusion, Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs, and EVP for Finance and Administration. Executive search firms have been selected to assist in each of the processes. Over the upcoming weeks detailed information regarding each of these searches will be added to the [UNM executive search web site](#), and I will continue to update the campus on significant milestones in the process. I am committed to a transparent process and ensuring an opportunity for broad campus involvement.

Have a great week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President

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