



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



*December 3, 2018*

Good afternoon.

It was such a special pleasure to receive my first wreath as part of the [annual Hanging of the Greens](#), which I've greatly anticipated since my arrival here at UNM. What struck me most was the spirit of community that accompanied our oldest tradition, with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members of all ages gathering together to celebrate the joy of the season.

Many thanks to the Chicano and Chicana Studies Department for the lovely poinsettia and performance at last week's traveling office hours, and to University Libraries for hosting it. We had a wonderful turnout of nearly 100 people. My next [traveling office hours](#), and final for the year, will be hosted by the Africana Studies Program next week at Mesa Vista Hall, room 4022, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

## **George H.W. Bush**

Wednesday will be a national [day of mourning](#) for former president George H.W. Bush, who passed away last week. He served our country in a number of leadership roles: as a U.S. Representative, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, U.S. envoy to China, director of the CIA, vice president and ultimately as president of the United States. Bush coined the phrase "a thousand points of light," which he later described in his 1989 inaugural address as "all the community organizations that are spread like stars throughout the Nation, doing good." I have spoken often of the benefits of volunteering and have shared many stories about the generosity of the Lobo family, so what better way to honor President Bush's sentiment than making a pledge to volunteer in our community.

## **Proposed Title IX Changes Open for Public Comment**

The Secretary of Education proposes to amend regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), specifically to address how college campuses should handle cases of sexual assault and harassment. The [proposed rule change to Title IX has been published to the Federal Register](#) and is open to comment for 60 days, with the final date for submission being 1/28/19. I would encourage anyone who is interested to submit their comments. I want to reiterate that UNM remains committed to the investigation and prevention of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct, as well as to providing resources to any and all affected individuals.

## **'Finding Rural' Studio**

As the University for New Mexico, so much of what we do reaches far beyond the borders of campus. In the southwestern part of our state, UNM architecture and planning students are collaborating with rural communities to boost economic development through the Finding Rural Program, which is now in its third year. [The final presentation of Finding Rural: Deming Studio](#) is later this week. Associate Professor Tim Castillo, a native of Silver City, co-founded this collaboration, formulated between Western New Mexico

University, the School of Architecture at Woodbury University, the town of Silver City, the city of Deming, and the UNM School of Architecture and Planning, to explore how architecture and design play a role in economic development.

### **Success by the Numbers**

No matter the academic path one ultimately chooses, mathematics is an important part of developing analytical thinking. For the last 21 years, the PNM Foundation has partnered with the UNM Department of Mathematics and Statistics to [fund the annual UNM-PNM Statewide High School Math Contest](#). The competition, which benefits between 1,000 to 1,500 middle- and high-school students each year, promotes mathematical investigation, enhances problem-solving skills, and recognizes and honors outstanding mathematics achievement among students in New Mexico.

### **Each of Us Continues to Define All of US**

If you attended the Women's Basketball game this weekend, you might have caught the University's [new promotional production](#) on the big screen. The ['State of Minds' video was released on Friday](#), and I have heard many wonderful things about it in just a few short days. With nearly 20,000 views on social media, students, faculty, staff and alumni have expressed their pride in seeing UNM represented so well, and they have not hesitated to share it.

Have a great week, and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes  
President

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