



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



April 29, 2019

Good afternoon.

Last week I was privileged to recognize nearly 500 dedicated faculty and staff who have contributed a combined 10,000 years of service to UNM. Their commitment to furthering higher education in New Mexico is truly inspiring. They are the backbone of this institution and are pivotal in assuring the leaders of tomorrow are fully equipped to create, collect and spread knowledge. It was a joy to be there as they received their awards for 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and even 50 year [career milestones](#). Thank you for your hard work and for making UNM the University *for* New Mexico!

UNM Budget Recap

After last week's Board of Regents meeting, where compensation and tuition and fees were approved, the budget office has been busy finalizing the University's consolidated budget, which will be forwarded to the Higher Education Department (HED) this week and presented for approval to our Board of Regents at the next full Board meeting on May 9. I realize there have been a number of questions that have arisen, about compensation in particular. [A story from our newsroom](#) provides considerable detail about actions taken at the last board meeting. We will continue to provide comprehensive information on the budget process and its impact on students, faculty and staff.

Eric Putney named 2019 Goldwater Scholar

In the spirit of each of us defining all of us, the individual accomplishments of our students are the bright spots that define our success as an academic institution. Eric Putney, an undergraduate student in the Physics and Astronomy Department, was just [named a 2019-2020 Goldwater Scholar](#). He was chosen for the award from among 5,000 college sophomores and juniors representing more than 400 schools. Only about 1,200 Goldwater Scholars are named each year, and it is one of the most significant awards presented to undergraduate students pursuing careers in mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. Eric says he plans to pursue his Ph.D. in particle physics, with a goal to research antimatter and hopefully answer some of the many questions in his field. We look forward to seeing his future successes, and I personally wish him the best of luck in all his endeavors.

Professor Emeritus Enrique R. Lamadrid Recognized for Extraordinary Scholarly Contributions

One of our distinguished faculty, Enrique Lamadrid, was also recently recognized for his outstanding work. He won the [2019 North American Academy of the Spanish Language \(ANLE\) "Enrique Anderson Imbert" national prize](#). The prestigious award recognizes those who spearhead research, contributions, projects and publications supporting the knowledge of Spanish language, as well as Hispanic culture and literature. Professor Emeritus Lamadrid, part of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, impressed the jury through his dedication to education and research. Please join me in congratulating him on such an honor.

General Faculty Meeting Tomorrow

I would like to encourage our faculty and any interested member of the campus community to attend the [General Faculty Meeting tomorrow, April 30, at 10 a.m. at Popejoy Hall](#). This will be an important meeting to better inform interested parties on the issue of [potential faculty unionization at UNM](#).

2019 Spring Semester Townhall

We had a very engaging conversation on Friday at the spring semester town hall. Thank you to everyone who came out to discuss the challenges facing faculty, students and staff, as well as raising questions about the strategic plan, ethics, enrollment and a myriad of other topics. I'm told there were some technical difficulties with the live stream towards the beginning of the hour, so we have [uploaded a full recording of the event](#) for everyone to view. I'm eager to continue our conversations both at traveling office hours and other scheduled events in the future. As always, feel free to [reach out to me](#) with your comments, questions or concerns.

Campus Reception for Leadership Service

The entire campus community is invited to join Jeff and me at a reception in honor of some of our outstanding academic leaders, who have served in critical roles at UNM to advance our Flagship mission. Interim Provost Rich Wood and School of Architecture and Planning Dean Geraldine Forbes Isais both will be returning to their faculty appointments. College of Education Dean, Hector Ochoa, has taken the position of provost at San Diego State University. I thank you all for your valuable contributions to the University for New Mexico!

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President