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## Wednesday Communiqué, 2/1/2012

Chaouki Abdallah

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## WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

February 1, 2012

**Our Second Academic Planning Series Speaker:** I am pleased to announce Mr. James G. Ellis, UNM Alum, Dean of the USC Marshall School of Business and holder of the Robert R. Dockson Dean's Chair in Business Administration as our second speaker in the UNM academic planning speaker series. He holds an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School and a B.B.A. from the University of New Mexico. Mr. Ellis' talk, "Creating the Next Generation of Leaders" is scheduled for February 10, 2012 at 3:00 PM in the Science & Mathematics Learning Center auditorium. The full press release can be located at: <http://news.unm.edu/2012/01/unm-hosts-second-lecture-tied-to-academic-planning-efforts/>.

**More on The Role of Universities:** Dr. Lee J. Rickard called my attention to the book: *The Idea of the University: A Reexamination*, by Jaroslav Pelikan which follows up on the book by Newman that I referenced last week. It is interesting to me that both books (and many others I am coming across) deal with the modern questions of the role of universities as economic engines, the inseparability of research and teaching, but to also argue that knowledge must be pursued as an end by itself. According to B. Schmidt, the president of Yale University: "The true crisis of the university today ... lies in the crisis of confidence within the university itself about its abiding nature and purpose." The purpose, mission, and nature of UNM are at the heart of our academic plan.

**What is the Likelihood of Two Nobel Prize Winners Meeting at UNM?** US Energy Secretary Stephen Chu (1997 Nobel Prize winner in Physics) visited UNM campus on January 26 and held a students town hall to answer questions about US energy policies. On the same day, Dr. Roy Glauber, (2005 Nobel Prize winner in Physics) gave a talk at the Physics department. Dr. Glauber was visiting his PhD student and collaborator professor Sudhakar Prasad. It turns out that both events took place at 2:00 PM and neither Physicist was able to meet the other.

**Go Abroad Young Men and Women:** According to the Institute of International Education, "participation in study abroad has a measurable impact on student learning outcomes. Students who study abroad have improved academic performance upon returning to their home campus, higher graduation rates, and improved knowledge in cultural practices and context compared to students in control groups. Moreover, studying abroad helps, rather than hinders, academic performance of at-risk students." For the full report, see:

<http://www.iie.org/en/Research-and-Publications/Publications-and-Reports/IIE-Bookstore/~media/Files/Corporate/Publications/2011-Trustee-White-Paper.ashx>

**Cost of Dropout and Losing Students:** Helping UNM students graduate is not just a moral imperative, it also makes good economic sense. The new State funding formula will fund UNM partially based on our graduation rates. The following report contains information on the cost of students dropping up after the second semester: [http://www.air.org/files/AIR\\_Schneider\\_Finishing\\_the\\_First\\_Lap\\_Oct101.pdf](http://www.air.org/files/AIR_Schneider_Finishing_the_First_Lap_Oct101.pdf). The cost of low graduation rates is also described in [http://www.air.org/files/AIR\\_High\\_Cost\\_of\\_Low\\_Graduation\\_Aug2011.pdf](http://www.air.org/files/AIR_High_Cost_of_Low_Graduation_Aug2011.pdf). Check out the estimated cost for New Mexico!

**NSF Science indicators:** This overview of the National Science Board's *Science and Engineering Indicators 2012* highlights some major developments in international and U.S. science and technology (S&T) education. It may be found at: <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind12/>.

A PDF version of this communiqué is available at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>. Your feedback and input are welcome at: [provost@unm.edu](mailto:provost@unm.edu).

Sincerely, Chaouki Abdallah, Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs