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President's Weekly Perspective, 3/18/2013

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President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning and welcome back from what I hope was an enjoyable spring break.

Andrew Carnegie said:

“teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”

When it comes to our own successes and accomplishments in building a great university, I recognize that putting together teams of great performers with complementary strengths also depends on placing value on individual personalities, independent thinking, and the courage to question and debate.

We all like to feel proud not only of being a part of something bigger than ourselves, but also of being validated for our individual ideas, contributions and achievements. Our strength as Lobos is that each one of us is an asset, from whom we all benefit. Teamwork, to me, does not mean compromise in the sense of going along to get along. If a group of people agrees that they will not make a decision unless there is complete consensus, what will occur is the status quo and the chance for meaningful change and bold new direction will be stunted.

Lobo Athletics Build a Stronger UNM

I just returned from Las Vegas, Nev. where our Lobo men's and women's basketball teams made us all proud to be Lobos. The women's team made it to the semifinals, while the men won the conference championship, and did it with style! On an individual level, kudos are also in order for UNM junior Tony Snell, who won the tournament's MVP award. Congratulations to our teams, their coaches and our great fans (literally the sixth man)!

As the men's team progresses to the NCAA Tournament next week, this is a good opportunity to recognize the value of athletics here at UNM. I realize that there have been some heated debate on the subject over the years, but nonetheless, Lobo athletics is an important part of our culture. Having been an athlete during my time at UNM, I know first-hand that participating in collegiate sports builds character, provides essential training for success in the modern world, and develops the individual values of teamwork, self-sacrifice, discipline, and achievement. In addition, our coaches and their staff are incredible role models. Students can learn as many lessons about leadership and life from a great coach as they can from any great professor.

Beyond the individual benefits, our Lobo athletes have captured the hearts of a wide range of audiences, built and sustained their enthusiasm for the UNM name and image, and attracted many people to our campus. School spirit can come from many sources, but athletics is near the top of the list and carries over to nongame days as well. It builds pride and loyalty, and when we win big, it gives us a national visibility that we would not otherwise enjoyed. While not every team will be a winning team every year, our fans appreciate it when a team gives it their best.

This was evident when thousands of Lobo fans cheered our Lady Lobos against a very talented SDSU team in the semifinals. What amazed and impressed me in Las Vegas, however, was the sheer number of Lobo fans; we owned Las Vegas! It was fantastic! While some of us in the university may debate

the value of athletics, I think the rest of New Mexico has decided – athletics has enormous value – they love Lobo athletics! I hope you will join me in showing your Lobo pride as our team represents UNM nationally during March Madness.

Positive Government Relations Builds Institutional Strength

At UNM we rely on our people - pure and simple - and we give them the freedom to think hard about what we need to succeed. The UNM Government Relations team has been working non-stop over the past 60 days to deliver this success. Led by Marc Saavedra, they have listened to and strategized with students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni and legislators throughout the year.

Now that the 2013 Legislative session is over, I would like to give you a brief update. For UNM and our state's other public universities, the biggest news is the budget, and the solvency of both the lottery scholarship and educational retirement fund. The state's budget, encompassed in House Bill 2, includes a 3.5 percent increase in state funding for UNM, as well as funding for a 1 percent pay increase for faculty and staff, and \$20 million to bolster the state's faculty endowment fund.

There is \$10.1 million in capital outlay projects for UNM contained in the severance tax bond package for projects such as Castetter Hall (Biology), Farris Engineering, and additional campus lighting. The conference committee agreement on SB113 created a one-time infusion of \$10 million of non-recurring tobacco settlement reserves into the lottery scholarship. More detailed information will continue to be provided by the [Office of Government & Community Relations](#).

It is important that we recognize that our elected officials faced great challenges during the legislative session. There were no easy solutions. I thank all of you who voiced your support for higher education and student success.

Finalists Selected for VP for Research and Economic Development

After a nationwide search, I am pleased to announce that Provost Chaouki Abdallah and the search committee have selected four finalists for the position of Vice President for Research and Economic Development. The four finalists will each speak at an open forum where members of the UNM community will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to the search committee.

The open forums will all take place in the Student Union Building (SUB) on the following dates:

Vishwanath Prasad: Monday, March 18, 2 p.m., Ballroom A
Richard Billo: Thursday, March 21, 2:30 p.m., Ballroom A
Morris Foster: Monday, April 8, 2 p.m., Santa Ana A&B
Timothy Ford: Thursday, April 11, 2 p.m., Ballroom A

For more information regarding the search and the finalists please visit the [Office of the Vice President for Research](#).

Have a good week and Go Lobos!

Bob