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President's Weekly Perspective, 4/8/2013

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President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

We talk a lot about student success, as we all share a commitment to creating an environment where every student can and will succeed. We cannot afford to treat student success as just a component of a strategic plan – it must become a part of and drive our culture. UNM students succeed when they achieve both personal and institutional educational goals, developing knowledge and skills, becoming more mature in their thinking, and assuming greater responsibility for their own lives and learning. We know, students do better whom fully immerse themselves in the “UNM experience.” This is evidenced by participation in student life, taking more hours and trying things they have never experienced. Further, high expectations must be a condition for student success. At UNM, success is a shared enterprise. Students succeed by active engagement in educationally purposeful activities, and by building the educational character of the first year and placing emphasis on the environment in which we place students we can advance this culture.

UNM Budget Needs to Offer Responsive and Creative Approach to Student Success

As we ask students to be ready to attend UNM, the university has to be ready for those students. The focus of planning the UNM budget, including the development of a new tuition model, has been on student credit hour attainment, targeting a 120-hour graduation requirement. Efforts to keep a UNM education affordable also must include efforts to improve student retention and graduation rates, effectively lowering the cost of earning a degree and increasing the level of state appropriations under the outcomes-based funding formula that took effect last year. Our commitment is to help students and families more effectively plan and afford the cost of attending and graduating from UNM. Graduating in four years translates into students spending less money on school and incurring less debt. With an emphasis on academics, we will assure that we can serve our students, and strategically invest in support services and programs with the intent to enhance the quality of education and the persistence of our students to degree completion. The results will in turn improve our academic profile and the value of the college experience for each student. We will invest in faculty and programs to ensure that students succeed; strengthening our academic programs to better meet the needs of our students. Quality and affordability are not mutually exclusive when it comes to earning a UNM degree. By giving students an incentive to graduate on time, UNM will be able to generate more money for its academic programs, and allow UNM to offer more courses, academic advisors, and other student support services.

LoboAchieve a Resource for Student Success Culture

The complexity of today's higher education environment requires alternative ways for us to engage our students and make support services easily accessible to the highly mobile, digital and diverse student population we serve. By removing the barriers that students, particularly first-generation students, experience when attempting to connect with faculty and advisors, students are more likely to continue in their studies.

Through the [LoboAchieve](#) project, University Advisement is implementing a retention solution software that is geared to accelerate, automate, and optimize efforts to help provide students with convenient, personalized access to services that respond to a student who needs help. The software is being piloted this month, with the goal of preparing students at every new-student orientation. LoboAchieve is part of our comprehensive plan to engage, motivate, and graduate more students, institutionalizing a culture of a student.

STC.UNM to Lead UNM's Economic Development Initiatives

As a research university with an associated health sciences center, UNM is home to some of the most extraordinary and innovative minds in the country. Since the establishment of [STC.UNM](#) as the "innovation door to the University of New Mexico" in 1995, we have made significant strides in technology commercialization, but we can do more to support the innovators and entrepreneurs who have the power to drive our New Mexico economy. It is my great pleasure to announce that STC.UNM, under the leadership of CEO & Chief Economic Development Officer Lisa Kuuttila, will be responsible for implementing UNM's economic development initiatives. The UNM2020 strategic plan includes economic development as key goal, and Lisa and her team at STC.UNM thoroughly understand the competitive environment of our knowledge-based economy in which the pace of technology development and commercialization has dramatically accelerated. The advancement of this model and our strategic statewide partnerships will position UNM as a leader in innovation-based economic development.

New Mexico Shared Knowledge Conference

As we are in the business of generating and disseminating knowledge, it is only fitting that UNM is host to [The New Mexico Shared Knowledge Conference](#) which will be held on campus from April 16 – 18 at the Student Union Building (SUB). This student-planned and organized, state-wide event celebrates and highlights scholarly work here at UNM and across the state, and will include over 200 presenters. The [UNM Research Exposition](#) is also a part of the conference and includes invited research talks, and an exciting TEDxABQ presentation about education in New Mexico at the luncheon on Wednesday. This is a wonderful opportunity to become familiar with research, make connections, and collaborate on a multi-disciplinary stage.

Regents Reception

I was selected as the 21st President of UNM by our Board of Regents, and have been grateful for the opportunity to work with and for those members with whom I interviewed over a year ago. I would like to encourage the entire campus community to join me in honoring the dedicated service of former UNM Regents Carolyn Abeita, who has served as a Regent for six years, and Jake Wellman, who has served as a Regent for two years, tomorrow afternoon between 12 noon and 1 p.m. at the Student Union Building (SUB), Ballroom A and enjoying some light refreshments.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob

[@Lobo_Pres](#)