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President's Weekly Perspective, 7/30/2007

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Monday Morning Message - July 30, 2007

Good morning.

As we head into intercession and anticipate the start of the Fall 2007 semester, I want to let you know what we've been doing to make the student experience the best it can possibly be for everyone entering or returning to UNM.

One of my first directives as President was establishing a division of enrollment management and an office of institutional diversity, each to be headed up by a vice president who would be responsible for the performance of these important functions.

Enrollment Management will oversee admissions and recruitment, scholarships, financial aid, and the registrar. What that will soon mean for students is a one-stop shopping experience. We want them to spend less time getting into school and more time enjoying the challenge and the fun of collegiate life. Enrollment management will also take the lead in developing plans to improve retention and graduation rates. Too many of our students don't stick it out until graduation. We're going to find out why and change that dynamic.

Terry Babbitt will serve as interim vice president for enrollment management while a national search for a permanent VP takes place this fall. There will be no job more important than Terry's for the next several weeks as we enter the new academic year. So if he asks for your help, please give it. The executive leadership team and I will be on call to do the same.

Meanwhile, Rita Martinez-Purson, who has served as dean of Continuing Education for the past several years, has been named the interim vice president of institutional diversity.

She will be calling on faculty, staff and students to engage in a dialogue that will shape the office and its initiatives. We already know we want more diversity in the administration and among the faculty. It is Rita's goal to have a plan in place by December. We'll be talking about this more through the semester.

The folks at Human Resources are gearing up for their big Sneak Preview next week. For the first time ever, most (about 99%) employees will be able to view their pay stubs online and make sure the data is accurate before the Banner HR/Payroll project goes live next January. You'll be getting more details from HR this week. Take part if you can. It will be a good way to test the system's readiness, work out the bugs and ensure you get paid on time.

Finally, the first-ever Indigenous Soccer Cup will be played at Johnson Field all this week, with 23 Native teams from the U.S. and Canada. Go by and cheer them on.

Have a good week.