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## UNM's Research Mission - Untapped Potential

Robert G. Frank

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## **UNM's Research Mission – Untapped Potential**

Posted May 16, 2012 Robert G. Frank

Over the last six weeks I have had the opportunity to meet with many community and UNM leaders. These discussions have helped me better understand the challenges and opportunities UNM faces. They have also emphasized the importance and value of our research mission, and the ways in which it stimulates our connections throughout New Mexico and the world.

I have been impressed with the expressions of pride in our progress since 2008 and simultaneously recognized that we are capable of more - we have untapped potential. That optimism, which I share, begs several important questions:

- Are we capable of growing our externally funded research to more than \$500M?
- Are we organized to foster the growth of interdisciplinary research? To increase our collaboration with other universities, the national labs and private enterprise?
- Are we organized to support faculty to achieve their full potential?

The role of Vice President for Research and the activities performed in that office are fundamental to answering these questions and crucial to our future performance. I look forward to supporting Provost Abdallah and the faculty to ensure a successful search for this position and that the resources of the Office of Research are adequate to support a vigorous effort to increase our relevance in the world of discovery and innovation.