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President's Weekly Perspective, 2007_09_03

David Schmidly

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**Monday Morning Message on Tuesday
September 4, 2007**

Good morning. I hope you enjoyed your long weekend

There is great news in the September issue of Hispanic Business Magazine. Its 2007 Best Schools for Hispanics report ranks the UNM School of Law #1, our School of Engineering #5 and our School of Medicine #6 in the country. UNM is ranked above some fine institutions, like MIT and Johns Hopkins, so we ought to be very proud.

I want to deal with some misperceptions about my intentions for University College. One of the Regents goals for me is to evaluate the strategic importance and effectiveness of University College by next June. That means we will be taking a hard look at how its system is working and determining how it can work better. At no time have I suggested that the College will be dismantled. That is an erroneous assumption, which is feeding misplaced fears among students.

There are also rumors circulating about the status of research at UNM. Reports from the Research Study Group and the National Council of University Research Administrators point out a number of shortcomings in research administration that extend from individual units through schools and colleges to the vice president's office. We acknowledge these problems and have already begun to take corrective action that includes dealing with a budget shortfall. There is still much to be done but we are determined to address the issues raised in these reports.

UNM is a large and complex institution with many operations that will require a tune-up from time to time. My goal has been and will always be to improve operations with an eye toward student and faculty success.

The Regents of New Mexico State University will come to town later this week for a joint meeting with UNM regents. The Aggie football team and fans will follow Saturday for the big game at University Stadium and the kickoff of the Rio Grande Rivalry. It was rough for our football team last Saturday in El Paso. Let's show up in force at home to support our Lobos.

Finally, we join New Mexico in mourning the death of Supreme Court Justice Pam Minzner. She was the first woman to be named Chief Justice of the state's highest court, and she taught many of our state's attorneys at the UNM School of Law. Our condolences go to her husband, Dick, and her sons. She will be missed.

Have a good week.
David J. Schmidly

