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President's Weekly Perspective, 2007_06_04

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JUNE 4, 2007

Good morning! And for me its a great morning as I start my first full week at the University of New Mexico.

During my tenure at UNM, Ill be contacting you each Monday morning with news and thoughts that I hope will help us all get through the coming week with a better understanding of issues that impact the university and its students, faculty and staff. During my first day on the job last Friday, I met with the leadership of ASUNM, GPSA, the Faculty Senate and the Staff Council. I was impressed and gratified by their eagerness to work together on a common agenda and vision for UNM and I look forward to working with all of them as we set our course for success.

What I told them is what youll hear me say time and time again: We are all here for one reason our students and by building trust and a sense of community, together we will make this great place even better. To that end, I pledge to build strong two-way communication and to facilitate a dialogue built on trust and respect with all members of the University community.

To start the dialogue, I will meet each Monday morning with the executive leadership team the vice presidents and executive vice presidents. On the first Monday of the month, the directors from each of the UNM branch campuses will join us, and on the third Monday of each month, the student, faculty and staff leadership will bring their issues and ideas to the table. Working together, well reach a mutual understanding on how to fulfill the mission and vision of UNM.

With any new leader, change can be expected. However, I can assure you that I do not anticipate any big changes here for awhile. I am delighted that Governor Richardson made the great decision to name Reed Dasenbrock as the secretary-designate of the NM Dept. of Higher Education, and I am confident that Reed will do great things for the state as he's done for UNM. To fill his position, I have just announced native New Mexican, Dr. Viola Florez as Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and I am confident that Dr. Florez will serve the University well in this capacity. We will conduct a national search in the fall to fill this position permanently.

Also this week, I intend to name the task force that will review our animal research policies and protocols. I want to ensure that the respected scientists of the University of New Mexico will be able to continue their essential research in a humane and ethical way.

I will continue to communicate with you my thoughts and ideas, and as I pledged before, I will be doing a lot of listening and learning as I settle into UNM. To that end, please contact my office at any time with your thoughts, ideas, insights and concerns.

Lets all work together to make it a great week at the University of New Mexico!