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President's Weekly Perspective, 2007_11_19

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Monday Morning Message
November 19, 2007

Good morning.

A number of us are headed up to the Farmington area today on the northwest leg of our statewide tour. On the way, we will stop at Jemez Pueblo for a meeting with Governor Gachupin and the Jemez Tribal Council as we renew and invigorate our partnerships with tribal leaders. UNM has a long-standing partnership with San Juan College, so we'll be meeting with their leadership, and we'll also tour the facilities housing our Extended University programs in Farmington. Round it out with a reception graciously hosted by Regent Jack Fortner, and this should be a long and productive day.

I was delighted to see the CNM expansion election win approval by substantial margins. This positive vote is vitally important to the future presence of UNM in Rio Rancho and signals an acceptance of the partnership we have forged with CNM. Congratulations to CNM President Kathie Winograd and her team on a job well done. This is just the beginning of the exciting future of higher education in Rio Rancho.

At last week's Regents' meeting, we were able to report good progress in a couple of major areas. Special consultant to the President Carolyn Thompson updated the Regents on the presidential work plan and reported that our work toward reaching the 12 goals set by the Regents is already 20% complete, with good progress being shown in 42% of the tactics and some progress being made in 23% of the others.

Interim Provost Vi Florez reported on significant progress in the research area. Comparing the July – October period from FY 2007 and FY 2008, we are showing a 26.7% increase in the number of proposals and a 12.4% increase in the number of awards. The value of the awards is also up 35.9%. That's excellent news. You'll recall that the Research Study Group listed a number of recommendations for the research area, and I'm pleased to report that five of the thirteen have been completed, while the rest are in progress. As you can see, we have listened to the recommendations of the faculty and they are paying off.

We've reached #5 on our list of "Five Important Things To Know About UNM." UNM is going to be accountable. We vow to be transparent, for what we say is what we will do. We will be guided by the twelve Regents' goals and continually mark our progress in achieving them with clear measurements. We will post a five-year report card that will tie our productivity and financial data back to those goals. Still to come, we will develop learning outcomes upon which we will measure our goal for student success. Being accountable will be everyone's job. As Ernest Hemingway wrote in Green Hills of Africa – "Everything damn thing is your own fault, if you're any good." I challenge everyone in our UNM community to be accountable in our work, our teaching and our studies.

It's a short week. Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving.
David J. Schmidly

