

10-15-2007

President's Weekly Perspective, 2007_10_15

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Recommended Citation

Schmidly, David. "President's Weekly Perspective, 2007_10_15." (2007). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/schmidly_papers/64

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Monday Morning Message
October 15, 2007

Good morning.

It is with great sadness that I must begin with tragic news. As many of you may already know, two of our students from Farmington, Rachel McCoy and Michael O'Neill, were killed in an auto accident on their way home for fall break last week. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to their families as well as to their many friends, classmates, sorority sisters and fraternity brothers.

The 2007 UNM United Way campaign is in full swing, and I want to share with you why I think it is important for each and every one of us to participate. "Giving makes life better." That's the theme of this year's campaign and it rings true. By giving back whatever you are able, you will make a difference in our community.

UNM's support for United Way has climbed remarkably over the past several years so that our campaign is now one of the largest in the state. I believe that demonstrates just how committed you are to your community and the causes you support. Last year, the university pledged \$493,600 for United Way. This year, we are shooting for \$515,000 and I know that together we can do it.

You can choose to earmark your United Way contribution for programs on campus, which is an added boost for all the good work being done here. So take a moment to fill out your pledge form. I promise you'll feel good about it.

Last week, UNM Regents approved the university's 2008 legislative priorities and you will see that these reflect the goals set for this university. We will seek funding for major strategic initiatives that include programs aimed at student engagement and success, the teaching and learning environment and healthy communities. We will also work hard for a 5% compensation increase, doubling of funding for state workstudy and zero tuition credit.

A group of us from UNM had a great day in Roswell last Thursday. We met with legislators and city officials, talked to Rotarians and laid the groundwork for future collaborations with Eastern New Mexico University and ENMU-Roswell. The folks from Eastern are excited by the prospect and we feel that our partnerships will be a boon for higher education in eastern New Mexico.

The Lobos won on the road in Laramie over the weekend. I'll be traveling to San Diego late this week to meet with donors and friends of the University and to catch the UNM/San Diego State game. Volleyball and soccer are also grabbing a lot of attention. So many games ... so little time. Get out and cheer on our teams if you can.

Have a good week.
David J. Schmidly