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President's Weekly Perspective, 2007_12_17

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Monday Morning Message
December 17, 2007

Good morning.

One week to go until the Winter Holiday! I first want to acknowledge the many folks who will be working over the break, on everything from the Banner HR implementation to collecting end-of-year donations to many of the other jobs that keep this university going. On behalf of everyone at UNM, thank you for your service.

Janet and I want to show our appreciation to everyone for all that you do throughout the year. So please join us at our Holiday Brunch this Wednesday, December 19, from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. in the SUB atrium. Drop by for the food and music, and stay awhile if you can share some time with us.

Looking back on the past six and a half months, I am pleased with the work done and the progress we've made. Yet there is still much more to do. As our activity in Rio Rancho accelerates, we will need someone to be responsible not only for our interests there but also for the academic affairs at all of our branch campuses and education centers. So we have commenced a regional search for a Vice President for Rio Rancho Operations and Branch Academic Affairs. Senior Faculty Advisor to the President, Dr. Breda Bova, is chairing this search. Our intent is to have someone chosen by mid-February. We've also begun a national search for the Chief Information Officer – the individual in charge of all technology on campus.

I hope you've made plans to cheer on our Lobos at the New Mexico Bowl on December 22. Remember that students can take advantage of half-price tickets. The Alumni Association and Lobo Club have a big tailgate party planned under the tent northwest of the stadium, starting at noon. Kickoff is 2:30 p.m.

You still have time to contribute to United Way and help your community. It's a great way to kick off the holiday. Also, United Way is looking for volunteers to serve on the Community Fund panel. These are the folks who decide where the money donated to United Way goes to support Central New Mexico's most vulnerable. If you are interested, you can contact United Way directly at 247-3671.

Finally, it's a time for reflection. Losing our great friend and colleague Terry Yates this past week made me think about all of the other members of our UNM community who will not join us in 2008. Just since I've been here, we've tragically lost a dozen students. Terry, Tim Moy, Kris Galicki and Art Guenther are among the faculty we've lost along with a number of emeriti. Many of our beloved staff members are also gone. So please, take a moment to remember your friends and colleagues who are now with us only in spirit. Be thankful for having known them.

Have a happy and safe holiday.
David J. Schmidly

