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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_02_04

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Monday Morning Message
February 4, 2008

Good morning.

We've seen a lot of political activity in New Mexico in recent days, including the visit of former President Bill Clinton to campus last Thursday. We want our students to have a front row seat in the political process whenever possible. So we encourage presidential campaign stops here, provided they're being sponsored by a chartered student organization. We don't get much advance notice, but we'll keep you informed as best as we can the next time candidates come our way.

One month from today, there is an election in Rio Rancho that will be of great importance to UNM. In a municipal election on March 4, Rio Rancho voters will be asked to approve a Higher Education Initiative, which will be the next step toward establishing a UNM campus in Rio Rancho. The initiative asks voters to approve a quarter-cent gross receipts tax increase, which amounts to 25-cents on a hundred dollar purchase. That quarter-cent will generate around \$20 million dollars over the next 20 years.

It is UNM's vision that this money provide infrastructure for the full-service campus that was set in motion more than a year ago when we invested in more than 200 acres of land near the new Rio Rancho City Center. With partnerships that include CNM and NMSU, we envision a start-to-finish education for Rio Rancho - without the commute. If you live in Rio Rancho, I encourage you to go out and vote March 4.

I also strongly recommend that everyone sign up for the TextMe UNM campus-wide emergency notification system. When there are true emergencies that impact the entire campus, we want to be able to notify you quickly through e-mail alerts, text messages and other avenues. TextMe UNM also allows you to sign up parents for the instant alerts. Visit <http://my.unm.edu> or the myUNM link on the UNM home page, click on the TextMe UNM icon and follow the prompts from there. Please sign up. It's important.

Parents of mid and high school students should take note. The Albuquerque Institute of Mathematics and Sciences @ UNM (formerly High Tech High) is currently accepting early applications for the fall 2008 semester for grades 6-7 and 9-11. AIMS@UNM was established three years ago to provide a choice for college-bound students with a particular interest in math, science and engineering. Tuition is free and its location on the UNM south campus is ideal for families from the UNM community. Better yet, during their junior year, AIMS students enroll in coursework at UNM at no cost to parents. It's a good deal all the way around, so visit <http://www.aims-unm.org> to get more information.

We hope you're taking advantage of the campus activities surrounding Black History Month. There are a number of activities, including a film series that will lead up to the second annual Black Cultural Conference at the end of the month. Go to <http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/002579.html> for more information.

It's crunch time at the New Mexico Legislature as bills crucial to UNM are going through committee. Thanks to the hard, 'round the clock work of our legislative team, the university is doing a great job of making its case in Santa Fe. These final two weeks will be intense. Wish us luck.

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly

