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## President's Weekly Perspective, 2008\_02\_18

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**Monday Morning Message**  
**February 18, 2008**

Good morning.

Once again, a senseless tragedy on a university campus reminds us of the fragility of our time here. Our thoughts and prayers are with the students, faculty and staff at Northern Illinois University. Life has irrevocably changed for them. I've sent NIU's president a message expressing UNM's condolences and support.

What happened last week in Illinois reminds us again that we must continue to work at being prepared for emergencies on campus. I have instructed our Chief of Police and members of the Emergency Operations Center to implement a campus-wide drill in the next few days. For your own understanding of the process and your peace of mind, I urge you to participate in the drill. I also urge you to sign up for the TextMe campus-wide emergency notification system if you haven't already done so. 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.

I want to thank everyone who worked so hard on UNM priorities during the regular session of the New Mexico Legislature. In all of my years of dealing with the legislative process, I found UNM's effort to be the most organized and effective. When the dust finally cleared last week, UNM had emerged with approximately \$5 million in new recurring dollars in the budget bill, as well as \$7.6 million in non-recurring funds. Including HSC and the branches, we also got nearly \$73 million in capital outlay, which the Governor is now reviewing.

Because new monies were scarce, compensation and the tuition credit both ended up at 2%. I appreciated Staff Council President Vanessa Shields' observation at last Friday's regents' meeting – though we did not get everything we wanted, the process has given us the opportunity to network and successfully build relationships in Santa Fe. It is a continuing process of relationship-building that we take very seriously.

We now look forward to the hard work of building the budget. The annual Budget Summit is scheduled for Friday, February 29, from 9 a.m. – noon in the SUB ballroom. I have changed the format somewhat from previous years, but what hasn't changed is the opportunity for each constituency group to be heard. If you can't attend the summit, you can listen to it via the web. I'll have details for you next week.

This week, a number of us will be spending a lot of time in Rio Rancho, as we educate voters there in anticipation of the March 4 vote on the Higher Education Initiative. Approval of the quarter-cent gross receipts tax will be a major step toward building our campus there. We welcome Dr. Marc Nigliazzo to the team as our new Vice President for Rio Rancho Operations and Branch Academic Affairs. We have quite a challenge ahead of us in Rio Rancho, but the citizens there have shown themselves to be clear-sighted, courageous and visionary when it comes to the future of their city. We look forward to meeting many of them.

Have a good week.  
David J. Schmidly

