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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_03_31

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Monday Morning Message - March 31, 2008

Good morning.

Today is launch day for UNM's strategic framework rollout and the beginning of a series of campus engagement events that will get all of you talking about the mission, vision and values of this institution. The future begins today and we want you to be a part of it.

First, some housekeeping items: the link to the strategic framework on the President's web page can be found at http://www.unm.edu/president/documents/Strategic_Framework.pdf, while our environmental assessment, which identifies the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the university, can be found at http://www.unm.edu/president/documents/Environmental_Assessment.pdf.

These are the documents that will focus our discussions over the next several weeks. Later today, you will get an e-mail letter from me in which I talk about the framework and how it will help guide all of the planning each of your departments will undertake in the next few months. Finally, reserve April 8 from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. on your calendar for a live web cast during which I will talk about how each of you can become engaged in and contribute to the strategic planning process.

As I mentioned last week, I want to focus our attention on ways I see us working together to achieve our vision for UNM's future. This week, I'd like us to think about how our individual behaviors, and especially the ways we choose to treat our colleagues and our students, communicate so much about who we are as an institution.

All the fancy words in the world about our values will not replace a smile, a helping hand, a gesture of kindness, or a respectful attitude. Every encounter and conversation each of us has every day is an opportunity to live by our principles. I would like to challenge each of us to spend some time thinking about how we can bring our values to life through our interactions with each other every single day.

Last week, we introduced our new Provost, Suzanne Trager Ortega, who we'll be seeing a number of times over the next few months as she prepares for her work here. I know you will join me in welcoming her. We're also in the middle of campus interviews for the finalists for both Vice President for Enrollment Management and Vice President for Equity and Inclusion. Please take the time to meet these individuals. You can find out more about them at <http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/002776.html#more> and at <http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/002778.html#more>.

Finally, when the weather warms up this nicely, I start thinking about spending more time at the ballpark. Tomorrow night, April 1, is a grand opportunity for UNM students, faculty and staff to take in a baseball game. Our Lobo baseball team will play the Albuquerque Isotopes at Isotope Stadium beginning at 6:05 p.m. Show your valid UNM ID at the Isotopes box office and you can get in for only \$3. Take the time to support our home teams and enjoy spring.

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly