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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_05_19

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Monday Morning Message - May 19, 2008

Good morning.

We're all recovering from the whirlwind that is Commencement. It's a wonderful time of the year for our nearly 2,500 graduates as they celebrate a remarkable achievement. It's equally special for faculty and staff because we can celebrate a job well done.

I was honored to attend the UNM-Gallup commencement exercises last week at Red Rock State Park – a magnificent setting despite the cold and wind. Our commencement ceremony at the Pit on Saturday was, as always, a festive occasion. Whether the ceremony is on main campus or at one of the branches, it is so rewarding to experience the sheer joy of the graduates and their families.

Now that our students have departed for a few weeks, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank faculty and staff for all of their work this academic year. Though a number of issues may confront us through the year, we never lose sight of the fact that our students are our priority and their graduation is our primary goal. Again, thank you, UNM faculty and staff. Time to take a breather before the summer session.

This Wednesday, UNM Alumni will host a Memorial Day observance to recognize alumni who have died serving our country, as well as the alumni, faculty and staff who died in 2007. You are all invited to participate. The event will be held at the UNM Alumni Chapel from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21. I commend the UNM Alumni Association for making this opportunity available so that we can reflect and remember our colleagues.

Also on Wednesday, the University will host the International Fellows Field Study Program. Approximately 70 individuals from more than 50 countries have been touring the United States, visiting everything from casinos in Las Vegas to farms in the Midwest. During their campus tour, they will tour the Mind Research Network, Maxwell Museum and Zimmerman Library. We welcome them.

I'm joining my family to take a few days off this week. I hope you will likewise take the time to recharge after what has been a busy, busy year. And again, thanks to everyone for a job well done.

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly