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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_04_14

David Schmidly

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Monday Morning Message - April 14, 2008

Good morning.

Let’s begin this week with hearty congratulations to Stephanie Moquin and Benjamin Ediger, our two newest Goldwater Scholars. UNM can now boast a dozen Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship winners since 1999. This scholarship encourages outstanding students to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. Ben is majoring in biochemistry and mathematics, while Stephanie is majoring in biology and anthropology. Great work! UNM is proud of you both.

A number of outstanding students were honored at the recent Student Recognition Reception. I plan to devote much of next week’s message telling you about them.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to join me for my webcast last week and to think about the strategic framework for the future of UNM. This week and next, I am asking you to really engage in the process by participating in departmental meetings where you and your colleagues talk about the future of UNM and your role in that future. I want to hear your ideas about improving the university through the work that you do, how your work will complement that of others, and how together we can move toward the future we envision. Don’t forget to let the Strategy Office know when your meeting is scheduled, as I will be dropping in on some of them.

Sustainability was one of the core values I talked about during the webcast. Everything we do today must take into account the well-being of future generations. A major part of sustainability is energy conservation, and as I’ve mentioned to you previously, UNM is embarking on a major energy conservation program, which will be guided by Energy Education Inc. Those are the energy conservation experts who were retained by Lobo Energy.

Starting today, several Lobo Energy employees, called energy conservation educators, will start introducing themselves to campus. They will work with departments on conservation. They will also be publishing energy conservation guidelines for all of us to follow. We can save millions of dollars by just paying closer attention to conservation.

Along those same lines, the Provost’s Task Force on Sustainability has been working for more than a year on recommendations to develop a Sustainability Initiative that addresses the triple bottom line: environment, economic and social responsibility. The task force developed Policy 2100 – “Sustainability” – which defines UNM’s sustainability principles and proposes a structure for long-term implementation of those principles at UNM. The proposed policy is ready for review at http://www.unm.edu/~ubppm/ubppmanual/d2100.htm. Take a look and send your comments to ubbpm@unm.edu.

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly