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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_05_27

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Monday Morning Message on Tuesday - May 27, 2008

Good morning.

I hope you had a wonderful Memorial Day holiday. This is one of our rare Tuesday morning messages, and I wanted to share a few thoughts with you as we start moving toward summer.

I'm four days away from completing my first full year as President of the University of New Mexico. Tomorrow, the Regents and I will be talking about how this year has gone. I can tell you it has been both challenging and rewarding. Janet and I and our family have found a wonderful home in New Mexico and we're as delighted to be here now as we were a year ago.

As I reflect on this past year at UNM, there are many accomplishments to celebrate. I take sole credit for none of them, for all that we achieve at this university is the result of working together as a team. This week and next, I will share with you what I think are UNM's major accomplishments of 2007-2008. These are in no particular order.

Everyone on campus had the opportunity to observe the creation and launch of the UNM Strategic Framework, which will guide our planning for the coming years. Most importantly, a great many people actively engaged in the process – building on the spirit of community that underlies all of our great achievements. This is an active process and one I promise will continue.

My executive leadership team has evolved and stabilized, with veterans in UNM leadership positions balancing a new crop of talented and skilled administrators, including new vice presidents for academic affairs, enrollment management, equity and inclusion, and Rio Rancho operations.

In order to make good on our commitment for a student-centered environment at UNM, we established the Division of Enrollment Management to streamline the recruitment, admissions and financial aid process, among others. We wanted to eliminate the undue barriers our students encounter on their journey to graduation.

As of mid-May, I can report this will be another record-breaking fundraising year. We've exceeded the totals of 2006-2007 and are closing in on our \$80 million goal. As successful as UNM fundraising has been, we will have to ramp up the efforts significantly as we approach our comprehensive campaign. So in preparation, we have reorganized the UNM Foundation, making it an independent, self-supporting, full-service entity whose focus will solely be on raising funds, investing and distributing them.

I'll share more thoughts on our accomplishments next week. In the meantime, how about that Lobo baseball team making it into the Mountain West championship game! Great season.

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly