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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_04_21

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Monday Morning Message – April 21, 2008

Good morning.

The rollout of the Strategic Framework continues, and I can't thank you enough for your positive response. During my web cast on April 8th, I asked departments across campus to hold conversations over a two-week period to begin talking about how they see themselves connecting to the future of UNM through the vision, mission, values, and strategies outlined in the Framework. More than 80 academic and administrative departments, centers, and branch campuses have scheduled meetings so far. We are already beginning to receive feedback from those who met last week, and some of the ideas you are sharing are outstanding. I will be featuring some of these departments and how they are bringing our "Connectivity to Purpose" strategy alive during the Town Hall meeting I will host on May 1st from 1:30 to 3:30 in the SUB Ballrooms. I hope you will plan to join me as we continue to build the respectful relationships and collaborative culture that will move UNM from good to great.

Last week I recognized UNM's most recent Goldwater Scholarship recipients and this week I'd like to recognize some other outstanding students whose accomplishments were recently showcased at the 2008 Student Recognition Reception. Among the many awardees were this year's recipients of the Clauve Outstanding Senior Awards. The Clauve award is presented to seniors who have performed well academically while making significant contributions to the general welfare of the campus community. My heartfelt congratulations go out to Matt Barnes, Megan Fitzpatrick, Louis Jeantete, Margi Miranda, Brandon Ryan, and John Smeltzer for being among the best and brightest at UNM.

On Wednesday the City will be dedicating a bike bridge in honor of James Quinn, a former law student who was taken from us last Fall while riding his bicycle. James was a truly outstanding young man and had a tremendous career and a wonderful life ahead of him. It's tragic anytime we lose a member of the UNM family, and I ask that you join me in sending our best wishes to the Quinns.

If you haven't heard already, we've just announced the appointment of Dr. Julia Fulghum from the School of Engineering as the Interim Vice President for Research. Dr. Fulghum has proven herself to be an outstanding teacher and administrator and is well respected among UNM's faculty. I believe she will serve the University well in this capacity and I look forward to working with her as we continue our search for a permanent Vice President.

I had a great trip up to Los Alamos last week. While there, I was able to meet with students, faculty and staff at our branch campus to talk about the future of our Los Alamos operations. I was also fortunate to be able to meet with several members of the legislative delegation from the area. One thing they all have in common is a love of the UNM – Los Alamos. Our meetings were very productive and I think we all came away with a newfound resolve to continue to strengthen our programs and services in Los Alamos. We face some challenges, but there are also many untapped opportunities that I believe will allow us to grow and be successful.

Have a great week!

David J. Schmidly