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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_06_09

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Monday Morning Message - June 9, 2008

Good morning.

Summer school begins today, so things are hopping on campus once again. Welcome to our students, to the faculty who will teach them and to the staff who hold our enterprise together.

And as we're speaking of staff, the fifth annual Staff Appreciation Week kicks off this coming Saturday, June 14, with the Staff Picnic at the Rio Grande Zoo, starting at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are still available, but please purchase them as soon as you can at ticket offices at the Pit, UNM Bookstore, Basic Medical Sciences Building Cashiers office, and all branch campuses. The \$5 price includes zoo entrance, food, music and a complimentary shuttle to the zoo leaving at 5:30 p.m. from UNM's Q Lot, near the Children's Campus. It's going to be a grand evening.

A couple of weeks ago, I reported to UNM regents on our first year's progress. You can see the report on my webpage, <http://www.unm.edu/president>, under Current Items. I also want to share with you the rest of the list of first year accomplishments in which we can all take pride.

I'm proud of UNM's expanded partnership with Central New Mexico Community College. UNM and CNM will establish a statewide model for partnerships that provide a "gateway" for some and a seamless transition for all. A focal point for the UNM/CNM partnership will be Rio Rancho, and thanks to the voters in that City of Vision, a successful gross receipts tax election has provided the foundation funds for the UNM campus in Rio Rancho.

I wanted to learn all that I could about New Mexico this year. As part of my statewide outreach tour, I have visited a dozen New Mexico communities and three pueblos. I've also toured each of our four branch campuses.

We have worked hard to make our internal systems more efficient and responsive. The Banner implementation continued with the successful launch of the HR/Payroll and Budget modules. UNM also implemented a behavior-based energy savings program that promises savings approaching tens of millions of dollars in the next 10 years.

We are working hard to ramp up our communication and marketing efforts. In that vein, a communications audit is in final review and we've successfully completed the first phase of our media training, including a leadership seminar focused on "Creating a Culture of Transparency at UNM."

Finally, as an institution that values its students, UNM must also value the parents whose guidance is a resource for us all. In recognition of the important role that they play, we have formed the UNM Parent Association.

In this first year, together we have laid the foundation to build a student-centered, vision-aligned, performance-driven culture, capable of achieving our highest aspirations for UNM. Together we will continue to travel on an exciting, challenging journey.

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly