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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_06_16

David Schmidly

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Monday Morning Message - June 16, 2008

Good morning.

Staff Appreciation Week is in full swing, so if you're a staff member who hasn't had breakfast yet, you have until 9 a.m. this morning to get to the SUB, ballrooms B&C, for pancakes. HR is sponsoring breakfast and UNM's executive team is serving. We'd love to see you there. You can also take advantage of art shows, book fairs, concerts and ice cream socials this week, so get out of the office and enjoy. Thanks to the Staff Council for hosting an enjoyable picnic at the zoo last Saturday night and for putting this whole week of activities together. Here are the times and locations:

<http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/002955.html>.

I'm hoping many of you will be able to take advantage of the chance to work a four-day compressed work week this summer. It's an experiment that can cut your gas consumption and commuting costs by 20%, give you more time with your families – and it's hoped, improve your quality of life. In any event, it's a good way to give our treasured staff a greater measure of freedom and control over their lives.

Here's a heads-up for many managers on campus: The Internal Audit Department is developing a risk-based audit plan to address the largest elements of risk to the university. They want managers in several specified areas to help develop this plan for the next fiscal year and beyond by providing insights on what you perceive to be the largest risks facing UNM. So if you are among the managers who've received a risk assessment questionnaire from Internal Audit, please respond to it within the next two weeks and help our auditors develop next year's audit plan.

I also have information about a great workshop for students. The National Science Foundation has awarded UNM's Department of Mathematics and Statistics a generous grant (\$750,000 over three years) to give both undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to immerse themselves in mathematics and get involved in mentored research projects. The summer workshop begins right after the 4th of July. To find out more, go to <http://www.math.unm.edu/mctp/index.html>.

The university is honored to host several interim committees of the New Mexico Legislature this month. We held a reception for the Legislative Education Study Committee a couple of weeks ago, and this week, UNM is hosting the meeting of the Legislative Finance Committee. We welcome our legislators and thank all of them for their service to the state.

It's warming up, so stay cool and have a good week.

David J. Schmidly