

7-9-2007

## President's Weekly Perspective, 2007\_07\_09

David Schmidly

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Monday Morning Message -- July 9, 2007

Good morning.

This is a week for road trips. The statewide listening tour I've been telling you about kicks off Thursday in Hobbs. Now you're probably questioning why anyone would travel to Hobbs in the middle of July. I see all of eastern New Mexico as an area rich in talented students - all too many of whom turn farther east to Texas Tech rather than choosing to stay in their home state. We're going to work hard to turn that trend around. UNM has some good friends and alumni in Lea County. Our goal is to make many more.

Regent Don Chalmers and the Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce have invited several of us from UNM to their meeting at noon today. We will brief business and community leaders on our plans for the new campus in their city. Time permitting, I hope to drive out and see the site near the new City Centre. Rio Rancho will be one of the biggest opportunities and challenges facing UNM in the coming years. We intend to do it right.

The executive leadership team will be in retreat all day Wednesday. We will be working on the vision and work plan that I will take to the Regents in early August. On Friday, we'll host the folks from NMSU as we announce the "The Rio Grande Rivalry." More on that next week.

Finally, my friend and leadership coach Ron Kessler sent out an email on the 4th of July that I'd like to share in part with you. On Independence Day, he was talking about a Declaration of Interdependence: "Let's begin a conversation about a Declaration of Interdependence and cultivating an attitude of selflessness. It begins with thinking of the other. It is applying our self awareness to our social and external communities. Interdependence is harder than independence. (The paradox is that we need both.) Truth, trust and transparency are foundations of interdependence. John Maxwell writes about it in a leadership sense as "valuing interdependence over independence", "displaying loyalty", "avoiding internal politics" (hidden agendas) and "being generous" (giving freely of our time to serve others). Interestingly, this attitude releases even more innovation, creativity, productivity and authenticity.

I doubt that we will ever have an Interdependence Day. Maybe what we should do is just make every day a little more about interdependence and see what sort of revolution that starts. Think about it."

We will, Ron.

Have a great week.

David J. Schmidly