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## President's Weekly Perspective, 2008\_11\_17

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Monday Morning Message - November 17, 2008

Good morning.

Anyone watching the stock market and the world economy has really seen a roller coaster running wild the past few weeks. We've seen our counterparts at other institutions in other states have to take severe actions to keep their operations running. New Mexico still remains better off than most of our neighboring states. However, what we have to understand is that UNM is not immune to the economic downturn. That is why we've instituted a multi-faceted savings strategy institution-wide. In addition, all units at all levels have been asked to move all of their vacant salary lines into holding accounts.

Colleagues, this is serious stuff and we have to be prepared to respond quickly and responsibly. However, we remain firm in our intent to preserve the core missions of the university and to protect our current workforce. I know you have questions and concerns. We will address as many as we can in a town hall scheduled for Friday, December 12, at noon. We're waiting until then because the most current revenue projections from the state should come out a few days prior and we should know by then what actions the state will be asking us to take. In the meantime, please continue to send your comments and suggestions to me at: [unmpres@unm.edu](mailto:unmpres@unm.edu).

Even as we focus on economic issues, several UNM initiatives continue to move forward. The committee working to establish a smoke-free environment on campus heard last week from students, faculty, staff, and even retirees who engaged in a lively discussion of the issues surrounding a smoke free campus and how that might work. It is very important for all aspects of this issue to be considered and for the committee to hear from more students.

So there are two open sessions on the smoke-free topic scheduled for this week: Wednesday, November 19, 3:30 – 5 p.m. at Education Rm. 103 and Thursday, November 20, 3:30 – 5 p.m. in Dane Smith Hall Rm 120. Everyone has an opinion on this issue. So please come to one or both of these sessions and encourage your students to do the same.

Last week we told you about the Veterans' Day Mile of Coins that was sponsored by the Student Veterans of UNM. I was pleased to hear that their event was a huge success and over \$1,280 was raised in cash and spare change from the UNM community. If you'll remember, part of that money will assist the Veterans Integration Center, which works with homeless veterans in our area.

The spirit of giving has always been alive and well at UNM, even in tough economic times. That's why I keep encouraging you to give to United Way, because now, more than ever, more people than ever need our help. There are those who will say this is not the time to ask people to give. However, I think history will show we've stepped up in other difficult times. Did you know that the United Way started out as the Community Chest right in the middle of the Great Depression? We as a community and we as a campus have always been generous. It's time to step up again.

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly