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President's Weekly Perspective, 2007_07_16

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Monday Morning Message -- July 16, 2007

Good morning.

A couple of weeks ago, I told you we were in a number of retreats. Actually, that wasn't the proper term, because we have been advancing.

This past week, the executive leadership team spent a positive and productive day mapping out a strategic working plan for the university that will carry it from this foundational first year through the next five years. I will discuss their work with the Regents in August, as we are tying our work plans and measurements directly to the goals set out by the Regents. We will also be sharing this work with student, faculty and staff leadership. Our aim is to have a working plan to present to the campus by the end of the summer.

The statewide listening tour began in a big way with our visit to Hobbs last week. What we heard loud and clear is that eastern New Mexico wants to see UNM establish much more of a presence there and not ignore the fact that most of their young people are heading east to Texas Tech. I made a commitment that UNM would be taking immediate action and we are. Within a couple of weeks, UNM will announce that it is opening and staffing an office in Hobbs that will work on recruitment and community outreach in southeastern New Mexico. Details will follow.

In case you didn't know, our new baseball coach, Ray Birmingham, is much beloved in Hobbs. The New Mexico Junior College baseball park is even named after him. Ray is quite a guy. They're sorry to lose him and we're lucky to have him.

To me, there is little more exciting than a big-time in-state rivalry between two universities. That's why I'm looking forward to the Rio Grande Rivalry that we announced Friday evening with President Martin and the folks from NMSU. The rivalry will be played out in head-to-head athletic competition between the two schools with a trophy to be awarded each year. But you'll see that it will bring more exposure to both of our campuses as well.

This week, we are honored to have the All Indian Pueblo Council hold its meeting at the law school. Several of us from UNM will attend. I will also be visiting the staff at African American Student Services before attending a gathering of African American community leaders for what I trust will be an enlightening exchange of ideas.

Finally, many of you know that our colleague and great friend Terry Yates, vice president for research, has taken ill. Our prayers and best wishes go out to him and to his family. Terry, you are never far from our thoughts.

Sincerely,

David J. Schmidly