



UNM President's Report

A report to the University of New Mexico Board of Regents from the Office of the President

Message from David J. Schmidly

It's been a very productive summer at the University of New Mexico. As you read this, UNM's executive leadership team and I are finalizing a new vision and working plan for the University – one that addresses all of the goals set out for me by the Regents. We are preparing for a fall semester that will bring both challenges and opportunities as we focus on transforming UNM into a performance-based, student-centered, scholarly-driven, community-connected institution.

My thanks goes to Human Resources Vice President Carolyn Thompson for giving us a new way of looking at the big planning meetings that have dominated these summer months. We don't have retreats at UNM any more. We have "Advances" with a capital A, which have proven to be highly successful. The leadership team is becoming just that – a team. We're forming new alliances with student, staff and faculty leadership. And we're focusing on our overarching goal of student success. In a couple of weeks, there will be 25,000-plus reminders that our students must be our first, last and consistent focus.

Steps have already been taken to support student success at UNM. The new division of enrollment management will provide a streamlined process for students seeking to come to UNM. It will also have a major stake in improving retention and graduation rates. We have also established a new office of institutional diversity, which will be charged with providing strategic leadership in initiatives related to increasing and maintaining diversity within the university system. Interim vice presidents are in place in both units so that work can proceed while we start national searches for these positions this month.

I've had several meetings with CNM President Cathy Winograd on ways our two institutions can work together to ease the transition into higher education for students who may not be fully prepared for the transition. We both have also been talking to community leaders in Rio Rancho and will soon be unveiling an ambitious higher education plan for the fastest growing city in the state.

I began my tour around the state with a highly productive visit to Hobbs on July 12. It was amazing and troubling to me that several hundred students from southeastern New Mexico head east to Lubbock, but fewer than two dozen attend New

Mexico's flagship university. We intend to reverse that trend and have already taken steps to do so.

We have established and will soon staff a UNM office at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs. That office will be responsible for recruiting and community outreach throughout the southeastern section of the state.

My statewide travel for the immediate future includes trips to Taos and Farmington this month, Gallup next month and back to eastern New Mexico later in the fall. Our football season opens against UTEP in El Paso Sept. 1, so I'll take the opportunity to visit Las Cruces and meet with President Martin at New Mexico State when I'm there. UNM and our Board of Regents will be hosting their Regents and administrators in Albuquerque Sept. 8.

The UNM School of Law recently hosted the nineteen Pueblo governors and the All Indian Pueblo Council so I took the opportunity to greet and visit with them. I've committed to them that I would visit the Pueblos during my statewide tour and already, we have meetings scheduled at Taos, Jemez and Zuni. I also plan to visit the Navajo Nation and Apache reservations. My message to our Native leaders is that working together, we can guarantee increased student success for all American Indian students at UNM.

We look forward to the fall semester, football and the Rio Grande Rivalry. It will be great to have all of our students back on campus. They bring with them an energy that is impossible to resist.



David J. Schmidly



UNM President David J. Schmidly

Presidential Road Trip



Left: President David J. Schmidly talks with his host, Jim Maddox, at a reception in Hobbs during UNM's recent visit.

Above: President Schmidly and New Mexico Junior College President Steve McCleery talk during a visit to NMJC.

HSC Office of Community Affairs opens satellite office

With the goal of increasing access and communication, the UNM Health Sciences Center Office of Community Affairs recently opened an off-campus office at 1720 Louisiana Blvd. N.E., Suite 300.

"We want to be easily accessible to people, and we know that navigating the Health Sciences Center campus can be intimidating to people who don't work or call here regularly," said Leah Steimel, director of the Office of Community Affairs. ■

Interim VPs for new divisions named



Babbitt

Martinez-Purson

In order to set a strong foundation for student success at UNM, President David J. Schmidly has created a division of enrollment management and an office of institutional diversity. Interim Provost Viola Florez recently announced Terry Babbitt will serve as interim vice president for enrollment management and Rita Martinez-Purson as interim vice president for institutional diversity. National searches will take place this fall.

As interim vice president for enrollment management, Babbitt will lead a division that combines the offices of admissions and recruitment, scholarship, financial aid, and the registrar.

As interim vice president for institutional diversity, Martinez-Purson will help to create a new office at UNM charged with providing strategic leadership in initiatives related to increasing and maintaining diversity within the university system and community. ■

Record UNM Foundation fundraising

For the third year in a row, UNM and the UNM Foundation wrapped up a record-setting fundraising fiscal year, receiving more than \$72.2 million in gifts. 19,778 donors participated to meet this year's successful private giving goal. The dollar total represents an increase of 50 percent over last year's total of \$48 million. ■

Willman elected to AACI board

UNM Cancer Center Director Cheryl Willman has been elected by her peers to the board of directors of the American Association of Cancer Institutes, an honor that will directly involve UNM in national cancer issues being worked on in Washington by the National Cancer Institute and the U.S. Congress. AACI is the national governing board of NCI center directors and those institutions seeking the NCI designation. ■

Endowment to study N.M. economic history

Long-time champion of business in New Mexico Bob Hoffman is being honored with the establishment of an endowment at University Libraries. The Bob Hoffman Legacy Endowment will provide funds for the Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections to collect, process and preserve papers and photographs that document the economic history of the state. ■

UNM-Gallup ranked 3rd for Native American degrees

UNM-Gallup has again ranked third nationally and first in New Mexico among community colleges for awarding associate degrees to Native Americans.

The figures were announced for academic year 2005-06 in the June 18 issue of Community College Week. UNM-Gallup awarded 112 associate degrees to 28 men and 84 women. Diné College in Arizona was first in the nation with 226 associate degrees, followed by Tulsa Community College with 129. ■

RWJ Foundation Center update

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy has named its first graduate student fellow, scholars and faculty grantees.

Omar Avendano of the Department of Economics will be the first graduate fellow, receiving \$24,000. The center also named nine graduate scholars, each receiving \$12,000 or \$6,000 scholarship awards.

Two faculty research grants of \$20,000 or less and seven of \$10,000 or less were awarded to faculty from the Departments of Political Science, Pediatrics, Economics, Family and Community Medicine, Sociology and Pharmacy.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center is a national center for health policy at UNM started with an initial commitment of \$18.5 million from RWJF. The center will work to increase the number of Hispanic and Native American scholars engaged in health policy debate. ■

Cross-cultural Cooperation



All Indian Pueblo Council Chairman Joe Garcia shakes hands with President David J. Schmidly at an AIPC meeting at the UNM School of Law.

Johnson Field lighting nears completion

President David J. Schmidly will turn on the switch to mark the completion of the Johnson Field lighting project on Friday, Aug. 17.

Student government representatives raised \$260,000 from state appropriations in the last legislative session to help cover part of the \$720,000 project costs. As President Schmidly got on board,

he promised students that Johnson Field would be lit by the beginning of the fall semester.

The lighting ceremony will begin at 8 p.m. at the Student Union Building with a parade ending at Johnson Field. The playing field will be lit with advanced anti-glare and no-spill lights. These sports quality lights are environmentally friendly and good for neighbors. ■



Yates awarded honorary member of American Society of Mammalogists

UNM Vice President of Research and Economic Development Terry Yates has been awarded honorary membership in the American Society of Mammalogists. This is the highest honor the professional society can bestow on its members. Only 84 awards have been given since the society was formed in 1912. ■



Lobos second for academics

A total of 103 UNM student-athletes were named to the Spring 2007 Academic All-Mountain West Conference team, making the Lobos second in the conference.

To be eligible, student-athletes must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better and be a starter or significant contributor on their team.

BYU led the way with 154 student-athletes named to the team, followed by UNM (103), UNLV (84) and Utah (83).



Rio Grande Rivalry debuts

UNM and New Mexico State University have announced the formation of the Rio Grande Rivalry – a points competition not only for current student-athletes, but one designed to build school spirit and pride in the alumni and fans who cheer for the Lobos or the Aggies.

"I have been part of big rivalries and there is nothing more exciting," said President David J. Schmidly.

UNM and NMSU are scheduled to conduct competitions in 12 sports, beginning with women's volleyball on Sept. 4 in Las Cruces and the 98th football game between the Lobos and Aggies on Sept. 8 in Albuquerque.

Indoor Practice Facility



Completion of the new Indoor Practice Facility is scheduled for this month. The facility provides space for all-weather football practice and will help the Lobos get accustomed to playing on artificial turf.

UNM Athletic Hall of Honor inductees

At a media conference attended by President David J. Schmidly, the UNM Alumni Lettermen's Association announced candidates for induction into the UNM Athletic Hall of Honor, to be held Thursday, Sept. 6.

The inductees are Greg Brown, Tim Garcia, Maria Gurreri, Mark Johnson, Jamie Koch and Pauline Manser. Posthumous inductees are John Bridgers and Bill Stockton.

The Distinguished Service Award will go to Weldon Hunter, track and football Letterman, 1951-1953.

Coaches of the Year are head track & field/cross country coach Matt Henry and sprint and relay coach Mark Henry.

The Male Athlete of the Year is Lars Loseth, ski and soccer. The Female Athletes of the Year are Ashley Lowery, soccer and Jodi Ewart, golf. ■

UNMH 'most-wired' for fifth year

UNM Hospital has been named one of the most-wired hospitals and health systems in the U.S. for the fourth consecutive year, and a total of five years. The accolade is based on a national hospital survey that measures the use of information technology to accomplish key goals, including safety and quality, customer service, business

processes, workforce, and public health and safety, according to the American Hospital Association.

Out of the 1,248 hospitals represented in the survey, only 100 were selected for this special recognition. UNMH is one of only 13 organizations in the nine-year history of the program that has made the "Most-Wired" list five times. ■