



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

UNM is about to embark on another academic year with the anticipation of thousands of new freshmen, transfers, graduate students and faculty joining our community. We welcome them and our returning students, as we look forward to the energy and spirit they will bring to the UNM campus.

Leaders from across UNM gathered with me at University House on July 28 for my third annual Adelante Advance. Deans from both the Health Sciences Center and main campus, vice presidents, and directors from our branches all spent the day thinking and talking together about the challenges and opportunities we will face over the coming year. The economic situation was, as expected, a central topic of much of our discussion. I was gratified by the candid and sincere dialogue around ways we can all work together to make sure UNM is in the best position possible to meet whatever challenges come our way. There was clearly a commonality of purpose, all centered on the success of our students and carrying forth UNM's core missions. We have a great leadership team here at UNM, and the superior quality of the interaction and dialogue during the Advance further confirmed that fact.

At its summer retreat in late July, the Council of University Presidents also talked about challenges and opportunities. As with Adelante Advance, the current economic situation occupied much of our attention. We're expecting the latest revenue estimates from the state at the end of the week, and we're told to anticipate some dire numbers. State Senator Tim Jennings has written to all institutions, cautioning them to prepare for another round of mid-year budget rescissions.

The council also heard from New Mexico Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish about her views on the state of higher education in our state. Like most of us, the lieutenant governor believes graduation rates are not where they should be. She joins Higher Education Secretary Peter White in calling for a re-evaluation of the core curriculum while encouraging dual credit programs. She is also a great believer in higher education collaborating with public schools to define career pathways for students, starting their freshman year in high

school. We're proud to say that is exactly where UNM West is heading with its collaboration with the new Sue Cleveland High School in Rio Rancho.

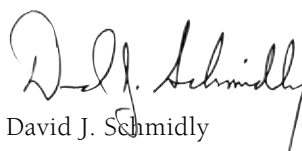
We're also unveiling for our regents the 2009 Campus Master Plan Update – the result of hundreds of people working many thousands of hours. The theme of this updated plan is Synthesize + Connect + Create. We want to unite the three parts of the campus – north, central and south – in meaningful ways that will allow us to celebrate our differences, while connecting them in a center of knowledge and learning.

On a broader scale, our flagship university must partner with the state, county, city and other public institutions in the region to ensure the most efficient use of public resources while reducing our collective carbon footprint. The survival and continued success of the area is dependent upon everyone's ability to work together to find opportunities and develop smart solutions to the daunting environmental and economic challenges of our time.

This master plan helps set the course for us to follow. We invite our regents, the campus community and the greater community to carefully consider what the plan envisions for our future and how we will embrace its opportunities while meeting its challenges.



President David J. Schmidly



David J. Schmidly





Princeton Review ranks UNM in top 15 percent

The Princeton Review again named UNM among “The Best 371 Colleges.” Based on student surveys, the book profiles the top 15 percent of U.S. and Canadian universities.

UNM students noted that “professors are helpful and genuinely interested in your personal success,” a reversal of the Princeton Review’s previous low ranking of professor accessibility at UNM. Students also agreed that professors are approachable both in class and out and “talk to you and with you and not just at you.”

Students cited the university’s strengths in “research-oriented staff,” “research opportunities available,” affordability, scholarships, diversity and student organizations. One student noted that “everyone seems to find their niche.”

The Princeton Review scored UNM low in two areas: “Dorms like Dungeons” and “Long Lines and Red Tape.” ■



UNM, MRN partner to enhance brain research

UNM President David Schmidly and Mind Research Network President and CEO John Rasure signed an agreement to encourage cooperative research, develop and distribute neuroscience technology, and create UNM-MRN professorships.

MRN researchers work with imaging and biogenetics tools to find earlier and better ways to diagnose and treat brain disease and mental illness.

The professorships would facilitate relationships between MRN and UNM scientists, faculty and administration and help recruit nationally-recognized neuroscientists to both institutions. MRN will provide financial support to the college and department of each MRN professor, allowing UNM to reinvest those resources into growing university research efforts. MRN professors will teach as well as research. ■

Biology professor honored with U.S. Presidential Award



The White House and President Barack Obama named Biology Professor Mary Anne Nelson one of 22 individuals and organizations to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Nelson is program director for Minority Access to Research Careers.

The award recognizes commitment to mentoring students and increasing the participation of minorities, women and disabled students in science, mathematics and engineering. In addition to being honored at the White House, recipients receive \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation to advance their mentoring efforts. ■

Native American enrollment doubles at School of Medicine

Nine Native Americans – twice as many as any previous class – were accepted into UNM’s School of Medicine in 2009.

Over the past four years, the SOM has aggressively developed programs to attract minority students from medically underserved areas of New Mexico. Students in rural areas are more likely to return and practice medicine in their communities, thus creating new points of health care access where most needed in the state.

Special UNM scholarships for students in underserved areas, programs to prepare for and elevate MCAT scores, and overall support for academic success were cited as reasons for this year’s increase in Native American enrollment. ■



2009 Alumni Lettermen Hall of Honor class announced

The Alumni Lettermen's Association 2009 inductees to the UNM Athletic Hall of Honor are Roger Cox (football and track, 1950-52), Rene Matison (track and football, 1965-67), Marion "Dutch" Niemants (football, 1937-38), Chuck Roberts (1957-59) and Kristina Strandberg (skiing 2000-03). The posthumous inductee is Manny Foster (football, 1929-30).

In addition, Greg Remington received the Distinguished Service Award, Joe Franklin Coach of the Year, Jeanne Fairchild Female Athlete of the Year, and Lee Emanuel Male Athlete of the Year.

Women's basketball ranked eighth in home attendance

The UNM women's basketball team ranked eighth nationally in home attendance during the 2008-09 season according to the NCAA. The Lobos averaged 7,808 fans in 19 home events, or 148,352 total. UNM has ranked in the top 10 for 11 consecutive seasons.

Lobos complete most successful academic year

The combined grade point average of UNM's 21 athletics programs for the 2009 spring semester was 3.12, the highest spring semester G.P.A. and the second-highest G.P.A. overall, after the record of 3.14 set in fall 2008. The Lobos have now reached a G.P.A. of 3.00 or better for 13 of the last 14 semesters.

Additionally, 108 Lobos were named 2008-09 Mountain West Conference Scholar-Athletes and 117 to the 2009 Academic All-Mountain West Conference Team.

UNM lends a helping backpack



UNM alumni and athletes distributed thousands of backpacks filled with school supplies to needy children. The APS/UNM School Supplies Drive, sponsored by the UNM Alumni Association, raised \$3,200 this year.

HSC research nets record \$137.5 million

The Health Sciences Center Office of Research pulled in more than \$137.5 million from federal research dollars and private organizations in fiscal year 2009, its highest research grant funding year ever, despite the overall decrease in federal research dollars since 2006. Last year's research awards supported nearly \$60 million in high-tech New Mexico salaries with federal money.

The \$137.5 million represents a 15 percent increase over 2005's \$120 million in research and a nearly six-fold jump from 1995's \$25 million. Improved grant search and application processes and stronger and more diverse relationships within the HSC, UNM and outside research communities have led to increased research funding.

Main campus contract and grant awards were \$133.2 million for F.Y. 2009, an increase of 18.5 percent over F.Y. 2008. ■

UNM goes tobacco-free

As of this month, UNM is a tobacco-free campus, including both cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. The new policy, based on input from faculty, staff, students and the public, promotes a healthy environment to work and learn. More than 300 colleges are smoke free.

The policy affects main campus, north campus, south campus and athletics, and Continuing Education. UNM's indoor facilities have been smoke-free for more than a decade. In 2007, the UNM Health Sciences Center and UNM-Valencia became smoke-free.

As a transitional measure, designated smoking areas have been established. Smoking cessation resources are available to students and employees. ■