

Monday Morning Message
October 22, 2007

Good morning.

First off, I want to invite all students to join me at a tailgate this Thursday evening before the Lobo-Air Force football game. There will be lots of food, entertainment and spirit. I'm also told there will be some games at which I may be challenged. I'm up for it. The pre-game party starts at 5:30 p.m. and will run until game time at 7 p.m. It will be in the student tailgate lot, which is southeast of the stadium. Students get in the game free with your student ID. Let's show up and have some fun.

I want to thank all students who've gotten involved in student government and student activities. They carve time out of an already busy schedule to work for their fellow students, and that is to be commended. This week, student leaders from all over campus will be honored at a dinner hosted by VP for Student Affairs Cheo Torres. If you know student leaders, take a moment to thank them.

Regent Don Chalmers and I had a fine time doing the Quality New Mexico radio show on KKOB last week. Don Chalmers Ford has already won the Zia Award for quality and they are going after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. Regent Chalmers talked about the "quality journey," and said there is no standing still in the pursuit of quality. You have to keep trying to do better tomorrow than you did today, and the reward is not in the award but in its pursuit.

I've talked to several groups recently about the "Five Important Things to Know About UNM." For the next few weeks, I'll be sharing these five one at a time. I believe it will help all of us pull together in our quest for excellence.

NUMBER ONE: It is important to remember that UNM is New Mexico's Flagship University. Flagships are large. UNM has 48% of the state's four-year graduate students. UNM confers more than 80% of the graduate and professional degrees in the state.

A flagship has a major programmatic and financial impact in the state. UNM is New Mexico's fifth largest employer, its state appropriation is nearly half of the total appropriation for all four-year schools, it has more than 200 degree programs and the only professional schools of medicine, law, architecture and planning, and pharmacy in the state.

A flagship usually has a medical school component. UNM's Health Sciences Center has nationally ranked programs and helps deliver health care to more than 100 sites around the state. Finally, a flagship is a major research university. UNM is listed in the Carnegie classification as the only research university with very high research in the state.

By all accounts, UNM is New Mexico's flagship university. We need to conduct our business like the flagship.

Have a good week.