

Monday Morning Message - October 29, 2007

Good morning.

Janet and I would like to thank everyone who came out for the student tailgate Thursday night. We had a great time, learned some interesting games and found we were both pretty good at them. It was a beautiful night and the Lobos won. It was all good.

Those of you living in the Albuquerque Public Schools District and the Rio Rancho Schools district – and I would imagine that will be most of you – should have already received mail-in ballots for the CNM District Expansion Election. UNM has a major stake in the success of that election. What a positive vote on that ballot will do is expand the CNM district and create a CNM Rio Rancho campus. That is the first step in developing a learning community partnership between UNM and CNM in Rio Rancho. Bottom line – with a positive vote, CNM will be able to build its first Rio Rancho campus facility at a cost of \$20 million. On the day those doors open, UNM will be moving in too, heralding the beginning of the UNM campus in Rio Rancho.

There will be a cost to the people in Rio Rancho who are voting to be included in the CNM district - \$9.86 per month per \$100,000 assessed home value. This does not apply to people already in the CNM district - about 2/3 of the population of Rio Rancho and everyone in the APS district. However, the outcome is vitally important for Rio Rancho, for CNM and for UNM. It will be a way for Rio Rancho residents to have a campus near their homes and businesses. So I encourage all of you to fill out your ballot and mail it back. It has to be in the county clerk's office by November 15.

UNM's United Way Campaign is picking up steam! To add incentive, a drawing will be held for everyone who fills out and returns the pledge form by this Wednesday, October 31. There will be great prizes from your UNM Bookstore, and UNM Athletics will provide a football package to see the Lobos vs. Colorado State. Don't forget to turn your completed pledge forms into the University Controller's Office, located in the UNM Business Center at 1700 Lomas Blvd. N.E. The mail stop code is - MSC01 1300.

Last week, I started sharing with you what I believe are the Five Important Things to Know About UNM. Number one: UNM is the flagship university for New Mexico. Number two: UNM is a Minority/Majority institution, which makes us unique among flagships. At 42%, UNM has the highest percentage of Hispanic and Native American students of any flagship university in the country. UNM graduates more Native American students than all other New Mexico higher education institutions combined and we rank 5th in the country for the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded to Native American students.

The National Science Foundation lists UNM as one of the top Hispanic-serving research universities. Hispanic Business magazine ranks our programs among the nation's best: School of Law #1, School of Engineering #5 and School of Medicine #6. That's why our Big Hairy Audacious Goal is to be the first minority/majority university and the only Hispanic serving institution in the AAU. Think about it. It's a goal we will talk about a lot in the near future.

Finally, all students, faculty and staff are invited to the UNM Volunteer Fair tomorrow, October 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the SUB ballroom. Sixty service organizations from the metro area will show you why and how to get involved in your community.

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly