

Monday Morning Message
November 26, 2007

Good morning. I hope you had a grand Thanksgiving holiday.

We had some outstanding news before the break. The New Mexico Board of Finance approved UNM's 2007 institutional bond issue last week. This \$143 million issue is focused on classroom modernization and academic facilities as well as renovation and improvements to the Pit and University Stadium. Our Board of Regents will be voting on bond approval December 6.

As we look forward to this bond issue, UNM's finances are in fine shape. Bond rating agencies, Moody's and Standard and Poor's, have given UNM a strong Aa3/AA rating. I'm asking our independent auditors to do a public presentation to the Regents on UNM's 2007 finances. That could happen in January. I will also direct these auditors to undertake a long-term projection of the university's future finances. I want everyone to be as confident as I am about the university's financial future.

I am traveling to Mexico this week where I will have the distinct honor of keynoting the Latin American Conference of the International Association of University Presidents. I will talk about new strategies of finance and performance in higher education competitiveness. The conference is in Guadalajara.

If you're like me, you have to work extra hard to stay healthy and not gain weight over the holidays. Lucky for us, UNM's Employee Health Promotion Program will provide a boost to our best intentions. Starting this week, a program called "Maintain, Don't Gain" will get employees through the next six weeks with special classes in nutrition, stress management and exercise. There will also be email tips to keep you motivated. For more information and to register, go to <http://hr.unm.edu> and click on EHPP, then Maintain, Don't Gain. Good luck.

Finally, UNM's holiday season kicks off this Friday night, November 30, with the traditional Hanging of the Greens. Join UNM carolers and enjoy the thousands of luminarias decorating campus thanks to Mortar Board and our student organizations. You're also invited to stop by University House for a cup of posole and some hot chocolate. The festivities start at 6:00 p.m.

Have a great week.
David J. Schmidly