

Monday Morning Message
December 3, 2007

Good morning.

We start the week with a task that will help ensure your paychecks will be timely and correct. The Banner HR/Payroll project is presenting the second and final sneak preview of LoboWeb this week. If you are on UNM's payroll, I encourage you to log on to view your paystub, benefit and deduction information, leave balances and more. It is an excellent opportunity to review your information and familiarize yourself with the features of Banner before we go live with the new HR/Payroll system in January. Please visit the HR website at <http://hr.unm.edu> for more information.

Congratulations to Lobo seniors Cody Kase and Vince Natali who've been named to ESPN: The Magazine's Academic All-America first and second teams, respectively. It's the first time two UNM players have earned the honor in the same season. Kase is also only the third two-time Academic All-American in program history. Good job! We're proud of both of you.

Governor Richardson's Higher Education Summit is this week at the Embassy Suites Hotel, west of UNM on Lomas at 1000 Woodward Place NE. The opening session is tomorrow morning, followed by a number of sessions through Wednesday at noon. Several of our UNM colleagues are presenting on issues ranging from campus safety to digital media. So please visit the NM Higher Education website at <http://hed.state.nm.gov> for the latest on this conference.

I'm joining Executive VP for Health Sciences Dr. Paul Roth and UNM Cancer Center Director Dr. Cheryl Willman at a signing ceremony today with the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center that will create a powerful research alliance to combat inflammatory breast cancer. This is a significant partnership and signals the UNM Cancer Center's rightful place among the best in the nation.

The UNM Board of Regents will meet this Thursday, and the main item on the agenda is approval of the 2007/08 Institutional Bond Issue. I keep talking about the importance of this bond issue because its major focus is classroom renovation and improvement as well as renovations to University Stadium and the Pit. With Regents approval, the projects can go forward. Watch UNM Today for stories detailing the projects.

Also during this busy week, higher education will have a hearing before the Legislative Finance Committee in Santa Fe. This is when the Council of University Presidents will advocate for our agreed-upon general priorities like a 5% compensation increase, doubling of funding for state work study and a zero tuition credit. In the weeks to come, we'll be telling you more about UNM's specific legislative priorities.

It is already the beginning of December and high time for you to turn in your United Way pledge. We say Giving Makes Life Better and that's what United Way is all about – building a stronger community by making it easier for us to help each other. You can designate your gift to any non-profit human service organization, including faith-based organizations and a number of programs at UNM. Another way to help is through your annual gift to the United Way Community Fund, which makes it possible to fund over 70 programs providing numerous services to the community. Also, an important thing to remember is that 100% of what you give goes to the programs you designate. There's a lot more you can learn about UNM and United Way at <http://unitedway.unm.edu/>.

Just heard the Lobos will be going to the New Mexico Bowl against the Nevada Wolves. You'll be hearing more in the days to come.

Have a great week.
David J. Schmidly