



*WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ*

**April 6, 2016**

**An Insider's View of an American University:** At the heart of our ongoing discussions about funding and managing UNM are the varying opinions and views we hold about the role of the university. Not unlike the parable about the [blind men and the elephant](#), different groups believe universities are (or are not) living up to their expectations. To some, a university is a place to pursue truth and beauty, and to become better persons and better citizens. To others, it is a training ground for the workforce of the future, and an economic engine of the state. Some companies view universities as gatekeepers, sifting students by merit, and who therefore treat a degree or other credential as a ticket through the gates. Others view the university as an economic gateway to the middle class and beyond. To some, college education is a public good, while others think of it as a private benefit. If we do not agree about the purpose of the university, then we will certainly continue to disagree about its funding and priorities. And if we do not allow for UNM's multiple missions to co-exist, we will not be able to intelligently navigate the continuing challenges. The ex-president of Adelphi University recently [gave a lecture](#) that sums up the positive and negative aspects of a modern American university, and provided his outlook for its future.

**Up or Down?** The Dean of Yale College and Edmund S. Morgan Professor of African American Studies, History, and American Studies at Yale University, Jonathan Holloway, [gave a lecture](#) at UNM yesterday that you can watch [here](#). In answering some of the questions, as well as in a later discussion, Dean Holloway described how our discourse within universities and at the national level could be improved by engaging those with different views and experiences face-to-face, rather than only through social media. He emphasized the importance of listening intently to the *context* of others' lives that lead them to hold the views they do. This reminded me of the [New York Times article](#) describing how Americans are engaging less with people of different political persuasions, leading us to become angry with each other despite positive objective indicators. On the other hand, [an article](#) at the Washington Post had this to say: "For every disgruntled person out there who felt undone by the system and threatened by the way the country was changing, caught in the bind of stagnant wages or longing for an America of the past, we found someone who had endured decades of discrimination and hardship and yet still felt optimistic about the future and had no desire to go back. In this season of discontent, there were still as many expressions of hope as of fear. On a larger level, there were as many communities enjoying a sense of revival as there were fighting against deterioration and despair."

**Lobo Reading Experience:** Sonia Nazario, the author of this year's Lobo Reading Experience book "Enrique's Journey," is visiting UNM again this spring. Her visit includes a number of appearances, such as a [Border Door exhibit](#) opening tomorrow, and a series of events at the [Shared Knowledge Conference & Writing the World Symposium](#) on April 13. More information about Lobo Reading Events with Sonia can be found [here](#).

**Advisor Awards:** Each year the Provost's Committee for Advising (PCA) honors staff for their role as academic advisors. UNM students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to [nominate advisors](#) for consideration for two PCA Awards: the "Excellence in Advising Award" and the "Outstanding New Advisor Award." The nomination deadline is April 22. The awards will be presented during the Spring 2016 Institute on May 17. Click here to visit the [PCA website](#).

**National Student Employee Week:** begins on Monday, April 11 from 11:30-1:30 p.m. The [festivities](#), including a carnival and the Student Employee of the Year Awards, are sponsored by the Graduation Task Force Student Engagement Committee.

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