July 31, 2013

The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant.
—Max de Pree

On Leadership: Peter Handal, the chief executive of New York City-based Dale Carnegie Training, came up with the following five strategies for effective leadership: (1) face challenges, (2) win trust, (3) be authentic, (4) earn respect, and (5) stay curious.

The New Economy: How does New Mexico stack up in the new economy? According to the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) report, “The old economy was driven by workers who were skilled with their hands and who could reliably work in repetitive and sometimes physically demanding jobs. In the New Economy, knowledge-based jobs drive prosperity. These jobs tend to be managerial, professional and technical positions held by individuals with at least two years of college education. Such skilled and educated workers are the backbone of states’ most important industries, from high-value-added manufacturing to high-wage traded services.” According to the report, New Mexico ranked thirtieth in 2012 amongst all states, according to an index based on twenty-six indicators from five sectors: (1) knowledge jobs, (2) globalization, (3) economic dynamism, (4) the digital economy, and (5) innovation capacity.

Embargo of History PhD: The American Historical Association (AHA) has released a statement requesting that students be allowed to choose to embargo the online versions of PhD dissertations for up to six years. The AHA sums up its concern, “With the online publication of dissertations, historians will find it increasingly difficult to persuade publishers to make the considerable capital investments necessary to the production of scholarly monographs.” The publication of a scholarly monograph is often the requirement for tenure and some fear that immediate digital access will jeopardize a young historian’s ability to publish their research. In addition, the statement notes that digital access does not allow young scholars to choose for themselves (up to a limit) how and when their original work will be made more widely available. As reported in the The New York Times, Inside Higher Education, and The Chronicle of Higher Education, some librarians, historians, and graduate students have criticized the AHA for crying wolf before there is verifiable data to make such a statement, for limiting access to research, not embracing digital access, and for Neo-Luddism.

Enrollment: Funding at most public universities is closely related to the number of enrolled students. Even under the new outcomes-based formulas being adopted by many states, including our own, enrollment remains one of the major pillars in state funding. In the last decade, enrollment has skyrocketed, and since 2008, the dip in the economy led even more students to pursue a college or graduate degree. The growth is now officially over; “College enrollment fell 2 percent in 2012-13, the first significant decline since the 1990s, but nearly all of that drop hit for-profit and community colleges; now, signs point to 2013-14 being the year when traditional four-year, nonprofit colleges begin a contraction that will last for several years. The college-age population is dropping after more than a decade of sharp growth, and many adults who opted out of a forbidding job market and went back to school during the recession have been drawn back to work by the economic recovery.” Everything else being the same, a drop in enrollment will lead to a reduction in our state funding and tuition revenue.

The Undergraduate Pipeline Network (UPN): will be hosting a poster session for the Health Sciences Center community on August 1 in the Domenici lobby, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The UPN program provides students from New Mexico, the Mountain West region, and minority-serving institutions across the United States with an intensive summer experience in conducting biomedical research. Students work with dedicated mentors at UNM HSC in the basic sciences, clinical research, and community engagement and health disparities research. Join us in celebrating the culmination of the scholars’ summer achievements.
Chaouki Abdallah
Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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