



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

September 3, 2014

Quality of Life: A recent study by NerdWallet found that some U.S. cities seem to offer a better overall lifestyle than other places.” NerdWallet considered such factors as “income and health benefits, local economic strength, as well as work-life balance to find the best places for quality of life,” in order to compose a “quality of life” index. A review of the study is found at the [NerdWallet blog](#), while the complete Top 100 list is found [here](#). According to the quality of life index, Albuquerque ranks 32nd in that list, while Madison, Wisc. comes in first place.

Your Data, your Identity: As faculty, students, consumers, patients, and citizens, much of our data resides on computers that link together and may ultimately store our information online. Even when we don’t plan to share a specific fact, algorithms that can piece together our digital pieces will eventually provide merchants and potential hackers with [more information than we’re willing to share](#). This was on display this weekend when iCloud was hacked and pictures of celebrities were pirated. It is important to follow the safety practices suggested by UNM IT, even though no perfect guarantees can ever be made that personal information will remain private. The entertaining talk at [Idlewords.com](#) makes it clear that much more needs to be done in order for privacy to find a safer home on the Internet.

Scientific Data: Scientific data, on the other hand, must be made [widely available](#): “Scientists who use government money to conduct genomic research will now be required to quickly share the data they gather under a policy announced on Wednesday by the National Institutes of Health.” This will probably become the standard for all federally funded research. Universities and non-profits are scrambling to provide open-access vehicles and protocols to do so, in anticipation of efforts by publishers to get to the market first with their solutions.

Academic Freedom: I regularly remind our campus community of the core message of the [Academic Freedom statement and principles](#) described by the American Association of Academic Professors (AAUP). The statement was released in 1940 and was “followed by Interpretive Comments as developed by representatives of the American Association of University Professors and the Association of American Colleges in 1969. The governing bodies of the two associations, meeting respectively in November 1989 and January 1990, adopted several changes in language in order to remove gender-specific references from the original text... The 1940 *Statement of Principles* has been endorsed [by more than 200 scholarly and education groups](#).” The statement evokes various impressions, and there are some who believe the principle of academic freedom is absolute, and others that it is very limited. I encourage you to read the statement carefully and to form your own judgment.

LoboRESPECT: University campuses have long been dealing with sexual harassment and violence, but such issues have been brought recently to the forefront of the national dialogue by congress, the media, and some high-visibility cases. UNM has been engaged in a comprehensive approach aimed at preventing and responding to sexual violence on our campus. In a joint effort of many offices, a website providing education and information was recently launched: [loborespect.unm.edu](#).

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A PDF version of this communiqué is available at <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/communique-archive.html>. Your feedback and input are welcome at provost@unm.edu. Please also see the Provost’s Blog, which can be found here: <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>.