



***WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ***

**January 22, 2014**

*Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.*

— Martin Luther King Jr.

**Welcome (back)!** For those of you who were with us during the Fall 2013 semester, I hope that you had a restful break. For those who are joining the UNM family this semester, welcome to the fold!

**MLK Day:** The nation celebrated on Monday the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. Recently, one of Dr. King's previously unknown speeches was discovered. The speech was given in 1962, and "fell in the midst of the Civil War centennial. At one commemorative event, New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller proposed a focus on the Emancipation Proclamation and invited King to speak. No one had heard his speech since. At the end of the speech, King quotes a slave preacher who he says 'didn't quite have his grammar right but uttered words of great symbolic profundity.' 'Lord, we ain't what we oughta be. We ain't what we want to be. We ain't what we gonna be. But, thank God, we ain't what we was.' You can listen to this remarkable speech [here](#), or read the transcript [here](#).

**Top-Ranking Programs Graduating Native American Students:** In the November issue of Diverse, [UNM ranked highly](#) among the top 100 producers of associate, bachelor's, and graduate degrees awarded to American Indian students. In undergraduate degrees, UNM ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in Business, Management, and Marketing; 4<sup>th</sup> in Education; 15<sup>th</sup> in Engineering; and 5<sup>th</sup> in the Social Sciences. In graduate degrees, UNM ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in Education, and 1<sup>st</sup> in Engineering.

**Budget & Legislative Session:** Yesterday marked the first day of the 2014 legislative session. The session will last 30 days, and at its conclusion the state will have a budget that will need to be signed by the Governor. "[The proposals put forth by the Governor's Office and the Legislative Finance Committee](#) provide an outline about where lawmakers and the executive office stand." The session opened on January 21 and will end on February 20. The governor then has until March 12 to sign or veto any legislation.

**Lottery Tuition:** One of the most important issues for UNM students that the New Mexico legislature will address during the next 30 days is the funding for the lottery success scholarship. There is the immediate need for an infusion of funds for the current semester (Spring 2014), as well as the longer-term issue of making the lottery solvent. Both the legislature and the governor's budgets included one-time funding for this semester. "Created in 1995, the [New Mexico Lottery Scholarship affects 26 percent](#) of full-time undergraduate students attending the state's colleges and universities. But the program is spending more money than lottery revenue is bringing in. Everyone agrees a financial fix is needed, but there are [myriad suggestions](#) about what exactly should be done. Many Republicans, fiscal conservatives, and Martinez say they'll only use general fund money for one year to ensure incoming freshman in 2014 are covered."

**Goodhart Law & the Right Metrics:** Both the new funding formula from the state and the ROM budgeting process at UNM allocate funds based on metrics such as graduation rates, degrees awarded, and so on. I am reminded of the importance of choosing the right metrics, as well as the impact of [Goodhart's Law](#): "Goodhart's law is named after the banker who originated it, Charles Goodhart. Its most popular formulation is: 'When a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure.'" [Here](#) is an example of a good metric: Laughing!

Provost & Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs

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