



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

October 30, 2013

**Scribendi:** The Associated Collegiate Press announced that *Scribendi*, a literary magazine produced by the UNM Honors Program (now Honors College) [has won](#) the National Pacemaker Award, considered by many to be the "Pulitzer of student journalism." *Scribendi* is produced by Honors students at UNM under the direction of Assistant Professor Amaris Ketcham.

**State of Academic Affairs Report:** The 2013 State of Academic Affairs Report is the second collection of updates on the state of affairs from the main campus college deans, office of Academic Affairs, and the vice presidential areas within UNM. The report is intended to provide an overview of UNM's colleges and units that includes an accounting of our major activities and goals as they relate to goals set by the Board of Regent's Academic/Student Affairs Committee. The report can be found on [the Provost's website](#).

**Math Achievement on the Global Scale:** Unlike many other international tests, the 2011 Trends in Mathematics & Science Study (TIMSS) [shows](#) that some US States place well in mathematics achievement. In fact, New Mexico ranks 496, right above California and near the international average of 500. The top US state is Massachusetts, which placed sixth right below Japan.

**It Depends:** How can it be that two researchers looking at the same data can reach two opposite conclusions? The article in [The Atlantic](#) discusses the performance of American schools from the points of view of Diane Ravitch's "Reign of Error" and Amanda Ripley's "The Smartest Kids in the World." Ravitch compares our educational system to its more glorious past and rails against efforts to change it, while Ripley compares our system to those in other countries and concludes that we need to change.

**NAE Report:** Almost daily, the issue of student learning at the K-12 level, and by implication the role of universities in preparing K-12 teachers, is in the local and [national news](#). "While the calls for measuring and improving the quality of teacher preparation across the country grow louder, so does the need for a systematic analysis of various approaches that are used to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of those programs," said Michael J. Feuer, NAE president-elect and GSEHD dean. "Educators and policymakers can look to this report for guidance on implementing and improving upon evaluation strategies." "The report examines key areas of evaluating teacher preparation, such as: 1) the current landscape of different public, private and mixed approaches to evaluating teacher preparation programs, 2) the strengths and weaknesses of existing and potential evaluation methods with respect to their intended uses and potential consequences, principles to guide the design, implementation and interpretation of evaluation systems, and 3) benefits and risks of different approaches to the evaluation of programs"

**Albuquerque Museum is Free for UNM Students:** In partnership with Frontier and Golden Pride, the Albuquerque Museum is proud to announce that UNM students will receive FREE admission to the Museum when they show their student ID during the 2013-2014 school year. If you are a student, or have one in your family, be sure to check out all of the exciting [events](#) and [exhibitions](#) at the Museum during the coming year.

Chaouki Abdallah

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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