



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

April 22, 2015

What People Think About College: A [recent Gallup poll](#) attempts to capture Americans' attitude toward college education. While I disagree with some of the opinions of the majority, there is no denying that such opinions influence attitudes toward higher education. As an example, "a majority of the public thinks higher education is available, but not affordable." A couple weeks ago I referenced a [NY Times article](#) which has since been referenced by many on the costs of college. I stated then that the article got some causes for college costs right, but many more incorrect. In fact, here is [an article](#) that explains well why college costs have skyrocketed.

Most respondents to the [Gallup survey](#) believe a college degree or a professional certificate is important to get a good job and that having a good job is essential to have a "good quality of life." This of course assumes that students have graduated from high school, a goal that remains a [challenge to many](#). The Gallup survey also found that "eight in 10 (80 percent) agree or strongly agree that colleges and universities need to change to better meet the needs of today's students." Finally, "just 13 percent of survey respondents strongly agreed, using a five-point scale, that the country's college graduates were well prepared for success in the work force." A majority of the respondents believed that universities must change to help prepare students for life after college, a path that LinkedIn or others might exploit to truly disrupt our lives in universities, as suggested [here](#).

Professor of Practice: After an extensive process that culminated with approval from the board of regents, all UNM schools and departments can now use the title of professor of practice. The title was previously reserved for use in the School of Architecture and Planning and the College of Fine Arts. According to the faculty handbook "this title may be used to appoint individuals who have achieved distinction in practice, and who may benefit a professional program at the university by the integration of professional practice with teaching."

First Morning Rave: New Mexico's first Morning Rave will take place this Friday, April 24 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. on the Health Sciences Center lower plaza. The Morning Rave is presented by the UNM School of Medicine in celebration of their 50th anniversary, and to promote wellness through physical activity and positive energy. Visit the [Facebook event page](#) or contact [Lori Peterkin](#) for more information.

Shared Knowledge Conference: The [Shared Knowledge Conference](#) is coming to UNM Thursday and Friday of this week, April 23-24, in the Student Union Building. This is the one time of year when students, faculty, and staff from departments across campus get together to celebrate the amazing research being done at the university. The Graduate Resource Center is partnering with the Office of the Vice President for Research to promote the 60th Annual Faculty Research Lecture. All conference events are free and open to the public.

Innovation Academy: Beginning Fall 2015, innovationAcademy blends curricular and co-curricular components into a creative, innovative experience for students interested in business development. As an innovationScholar, students from any major can select from a menu of courses (many that students are already taking) that emphasize creativity and innovation, but will also provide opportunities for experiential education, job skill building, and entrepreneurship. Students can learn more about the program and complete an application during the kickoff event, Thursday, April 30 at 3 p.m. in the SUB Atrium. The innovationScholars program will be detailed in a brief presentation and experts will be on hand to answer questions about the program. Come find out how to be a part of this exciting program and earn graduation honors (iScholars receive an honor cord) and great skills!

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Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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