



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

December 11, 2013

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

—Nelson Mandela

Finals & Final Grades: Here we come to Finals week of the Fall 2013 semester. Per the UNM Faculty Handbook, grades are expected to be entered within 48 hours after the final exam or last meeting date, whichever comes first. All grades must be entered by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 20 (before we leave for break). Note that online grading will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, January 3, 2014. Please adhere to these dates for the benefit of our students.

Memorial Service for Donna Elizabeth Cromer: Donna Elizabeth Cromer, Associate Professor of Librarianship in University Libraries, passed away unexpectedly on December 6, 2013. Donna was a long-time reference librarian and subject specialist working in Centennial Science and Engineering Library. She began her career at UNM as an Assistant Professor in November of 1987. Donna's friends and colleagues are invited to a celebration of Donna's life on Friday, December 13 at 2:00 pm in the Zimmerman Library Willard Room.

Why are Colleges getting so Expensive? There are many reasons why college tuition has been rising. A good review is provided in [this video](#) at *The Atlantic*. We know also that the debt load varies greatly by region and by college (see [the recent article](#) from the *New York Times* for a note about the debt load for NM). Most importantly, I am constantly reminded that we should focus on the value of a college degree, as described by the president of Northwestern University in [this piece](#).

120 Credit Hours: In a previous [Communiqué](#), I considered the credit requirements for a four-year degree in conjunction with a proposal to lower the minimum graduation requirement for a baccalaureate degree to 120 credit hours. This past Friday, this proposal was taken up and approved by the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee. I encourage you to review your degree programs at this time relative to the new minimum requirement. You may find [this report](#) on timely completion, authored by Associate Provost for Curriculum Greg Heileman, helpful to your discussions.

Performance Evaluations: Soon, we will be conducting performance evaluations. Business Guru Bob Sutton, and the author of the book *Good Boss, Bad Boss*, [suggests here](#) that good evaluations should answer the following questions: 1) Is what happens during that annual conversation and evaluation woven into the fabric of every day life? 2) How is excellent performance defined and measured? 3) What are the assumptions about the nature of a human organization? 4) Do leaders believe that there will always be a certain percentage of losers who will need to be weeded out and a certain percentage of amazing performers who deserve the lion's share of rewards?

UNM 2013 Required Training: The time for employees to complete the 2013 UNM Required Training is quickly coming to a close. Be sure to communicate to the organizations you support that each employee's 2013 UNM Required Training must be completed by December 31, 2013.

Staff Scholarships: The Provost Committee for Staff (PCS) is currently accepting applications for the Staff Scholarship. The \$350 scholarships are designed to help staff participating in the Tuition Remission Program with additional expenses such as textbooks, course fees, and supplies. To apply, or to find more information, please visit the [PCS website](#). The deadline to apply is December 19, and scholarship recipients will be notified the week of January 13, 2014.

Chaouki Abdallah

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

A PDF version of this communiqué is available at <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>. Your feedback and input are welcome at provost@unm.edu or at the electronic town hall, here: <http://connectu.unm.edu/>. Please also see the Provost's Blog at <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>.