



*WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ*

**August 24, 2016**

**Welcome (back) to UNM!** For more than 3,500 new undergraduate and graduate students, more than 30 faculty members, and many more staff, this is your first week at UNM. Welcome. For others, it is a return to the familiar campus, classrooms and offices, and friends and coworkers. With the first official week of the Fall 2016 semester underway, we are learning to embrace our new roles and challenges, or to navigate old ones. Personally, I am reminded again that “the biggest challenge for a university leader is not financial but rather to combine the interests of many into a coherent purpose of the whole. It is to make the many competing values combine to provide a common purpose and to set the rules of engagement that reinforce such a purpose.”

**State General Core:** The Statewide General Education Steering Committee is proceeding with a series of meetings to construct a new set of New Mexico general education requirements by 2017. I look forward to continuing the discussion around general education at UNM — one that has involved faculty and other stakeholders responsible for delivering general education courses. You may find out more about the process that started a few months ago by visiting the [project’s website](#). We will serve our students best if we can offer a distinctly New Mexican vision of general education while also adhering to national standards and to educating students who will live and work across the globe. One national model, known as [Liberal Education and America’s Promise \(LEAP\)](#), and outlined by the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AACU), has inspired much of the discussion. It emphasizes a curriculum built around developing personal and social responsibility, intellectual and practical skills and knowledge of human cultures, and the physical and natural world. The process we are engaged in within New Mexico and UNM will allow us to renew our ongoing dedication to diversity, to a strong and broad liberal education for UNM undergraduates, and to a credit distribution model that keeps student learning at the forefront. I look forward to your feedback. You can follow the Statewide General Education Steering Committee’s deliberations [here](#).

**AddMi:** A UNM graduate, Andy Lim, founded a new company, AddMi, after his (very successful) first company LAVU was recently sold. I believe that AddMi’s product will be beneficial to UNM students and the university community. As you are starting school, you will be meeting many new people in your classes and around campus, and it may soon become overwhelming trying to connect with everyone you meet. The AddMi app can help you in many ways, such as: 1) No more breaking the ice. You know who’s who based on the information they are willing to share and can connect with them instantly; 2) In class, people that use AddMi can create a group in one click; and 3) AddMi automatically suggests groups and manages your contacts for you. Andy assures me that there will be absolutely no advertising on AddMi and it will be forever FREE. In the future, AddMi will also give users the ability to connect with local businesses, receive rewards, discounts and promotions for referring their friends to their favorite restaurants and retailers. I am suggesting you check out this app because Andy is an example of how UNM graduates are founding companies and creating jobs in Albuquerque. AddMi is committed to Albuquerque and will be headquartered downtown. Check it out at <https://www.addmi.com/>, or download the app on your iPhone. While there, you may also want to check out the Lobo Emojis (UNMojis).

**Reforming the Academic Reward System:** It is commonplace for universities to say they foster inclusive excellence and support diverse faculty and diverse forms of scholarship; however, too many institutions maintain narrow definitions of scholarship that exclude the critical work of diverse faculty. The Office of the Provost and the [Office of Community Engaged Learning & Research](#) are co-sponsoring a public lecture by Dr. KerryAnn O’Meara, University of Maryland-College Park, whose talk will outline the key areas where we need reform of the academic reward system and explain why change is needed now. Dr. O’Meara will speak on September 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the Hibben Center. Please see the [CELR’s Events Page](#) for more information.

Chaouki Abdallah

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