



# The Acting Provost's Weekly Brief

**February 22, 2017**

The public release yesterday of new immigration guidelines has renewed concerns of potential impact to our students and other members of the University community. The changing presidential directives on immigration create complexities that require continued examination and communication.

UNM is committed to an inclusive and diverse community. All of our students, including our International, immigrant, undocumented and DACA students strengthen and enrich our University, and we want all students to know that they are [welcome here](#). These ideas are codified in UNM's [policy on non-discrimination](#) and are expressed in our values of diversity and inclusive excellence. We are committed to supporting our students and creating a safe environment for them. Many individuals across campus are working together to develop strategies to protect and remain responsive to situations impacting our international, immigrant, undocumented and DACA students.

The University is likewise committed to federal policies that protect confidential student information, the [Family Education Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA) and the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act](#) (HIPAA). Presently, information is protected by law, and institutions are not required to provide such information unless a subpoena is issued. The University will not voluntarily provide confidential information and takes measures to safeguard all student information.

The University has resources available for students, including [legal advice](#), ways to [report hate and bias incidents](#), as well as [health and counseling](#).

The University community will continue to be engaged on this issue. Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham is on campus today to meet with international students, to listen to their experiences and concerns. Acting President Abdallah has signed, on behalf of the University, letters in support of DACA and other bills that will protect immigrants in New Mexico and at the University. The Faculty Senate is currently discussing sanctuary campus recommendations, as some other universities have adopted. Finally, [Dream Zone trainings](#) are available this semester through [Learning Central](#). These trainings provide information on the undocumented and DACA student population and are open to faculty, staff, and student staff members.

## **Board of Regents**

The Board of Regents met last week for its February meeting. Some of the primary discussion items on the agenda were the following: the fiscal watch report, an overview of media impact from athletics, a report on the UNM IT Effectiveness and Efficiency effort, a student success update, and the Innovation Academy update. The full agenda and e-book can be found [here](#).

## **Budget Leadership Team**

The Budget Leadership Team met last week to hear reports from the subcommittees with recommendations for the FY18 budget. Those recommendations will be taken up and reviewed during today's meeting.

## **JAR Distinguished Lecture**

Dr. Agustín Fuentes, professor and chairman of anthropology at the University of Notre Dame, will participate in [two upcoming events](#) as a guest of UNM's anthropology department. First, he will give the 44<sup>th</sup> Journal of Anthropological Research (JAR) Distinguished Lecture. His talk, "How Humans and Apes are Different and Why it Matters," will be held in the Anthropology Lecture Hall (Room 163) this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Then at noon on Friday, Dr. Fuentes will hold a Specialized Seminar, "Human Niche, Human Behavior, Human Nature," in Anthropology room 248. Both events are free and open to the public.


## **STARTALK**

The [Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures](#) will host the [2017 Arabic STARTALK program](#) for students grades 6-12 and rising freshmen, from June 26-July 14. The STARTALK program focuses on Arabic language and culture and is free of charge to participants.

## **Graduate Student Institutional Assessment**

Graduate students can [preregister before March 3](#) for the [Education and Skills Online assessment](#), which measures workforce-readiness skills, and benchmarks your results against national and international results from the OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC). The UNM Office of Assessment is also offering other incentives and prizes for participation.

The E&S Online assessment can be completed online any time and from any location. It takes approximately 90 minutes, and you have up to four weeks to complete it. There are only 115 access codes available and over 1,700 eligible graduate students, so reserve your spot today.



For more information about the E&S Online assessment, including information on student incentives and prizes, please visit the [assessment webpage](#).

## **Craig White**

Acting Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

A PDF version of this Weekly Brief is available on the [Academic Affairs website](#). Your feedback and input are welcome at [provost@unm.edu](mailto:provost@unm.edu).