



The Acting Provost's Weekly Brief

April 13, 2017

Good morning! I hope your week is going well. President Abdallah addressed the budget situation in his "Weekly Perspective" on Monday. As he indicated, the budget process is delayed until the governor and legislature agree on the final state appropriation. Perhaps one silver lining is that the governor is expected to call a special session soon. This action should bring some finality to the process. Thank you again for your patience and continued focus on the mission as we await the final outcome.

In the short time I've served as acting provost, I have enjoyed working with the very professional faculty and staff members of the provost's office. They are dedicated to their work and have produced significant results for UNM. I want to take this opportunity to recognize some of these individuals who will be taking on new roles next year. Vice Provost Greg Heileman has accepted a position with the University of Kentucky supervising its student success and student affairs operations. Vice President Jozi De Leon has accepted a position as the leader of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's equity and inclusion division, and Associate Provost Virginia Scharff has decided to begin the retirement process as of this summer. Each of these individuals brings outstanding talents to UNM. They will be sorely missed from their roles. Over the next few weeks, the president and I will be working with a variety of internal and external stakeholder groups to assess these areas and formulate plans for the future.

Honors College Dean Search

Three finalists for the position of dean of the UNM Honors College have been selected for campus visits between April 19-May 4. The candidates are Ken Mulliken, the executive director of the Honors College at Southern Oregon University; Ann Eisenberg, professor of psychology in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at San Antonio; and Greg Lanier, director of the Kugelman Honors Program at the University of West Florida. The candidate visits will include open forums, and meetings with campus administrators, faculty, staff, students, and community members. Biographies, curricula vitae, and the times and locations for the open forums can be found on news.unm.edu.

Board of Regents' Finance and Facilities Committee

The Board of Regents [F&F committee](#) went through an abbreviated agenda at its most recent meeting on April 11. Primary topics for discussion were the status of the employee and employer health insurance contribution amounts, and updated bylaws for the Alumni Association. No decisions were made on

these items. Regents requested further information regarding health insurance plan options (deductibles, copay, etc.). This information will be provided at the upcoming full board meeting.

Ceja Vineyards

Amelia Ceja will be [giving a presentation](#) as a guest of the Student Center for the Public Trust (SCPT) chapter at UNM. The presentation is Monday at 5:30 p.m. in the Education Building, room 1004. Amelia Ceja founded Ceja Vineyards along with her husband and two others. Her presentation charts her path from Mexico to Napa Valley. She picked grapes in California vineyards as a 12-year-old, working with her father, after immigrating to the United States. Ceja Vineyards was founded in 1999, and it has become a very successful boutique winery.



Amelia Ceja

International Festival

Join our global community for a day of live music, international food, cultural crafts, info booths, and more at tomorrow's [International Festival](#). UNM is home to more than 1,800 students and scholars from countries around the globe. The event will be on Cornell Mall (just East of the SUB) between 10a.m. and 2p.m. For more information visit the [Global Education Office website](#).



International Festival (Credit: UNM Newsroom)

Student Employment Week

We are in the middle of National Student Employment week. There was a carnival yesterday, and there will be an awards ceremony tomorrow, from 11:30-1:30 p.m. in the Student Union Building. Students were nominated through the Student Employment Office for the "Student Employee of the Year" award. We have more than 4,800 student employees on campus, and this week is a reminder to show your appreciation for their contributions to your department or office.

Advisor Awards Nominations

The Provost's Committee for Advising (PCA) is currently accepting [nominations](#) for two awards: the "Excellence in Advising Award" and the "Outstanding New Advisor Award." UNM students, and staff are encouraged to nominate academic advisors by the deadline on April 28. The awards are presented annually at the Spring Advisor Institute.



UNM Spring Storm (Credit: UNM Newsroom)

Spring Storm

[Spring Storm](#) was held last Saturday. The annual one-day service event attracted a large crowd of community-minded students, staff, and faculty. Each year, everyone gathers for breakfast on campus before heading out to community service projects around Albuquerque. If you have never attended a Spring Storm, you can see a [short video](#) with shots of a packed University Stadium and one of the service projects undertaken by the Public Administration Graduate Student Association (PAGSA). The video was created in 2014 by a group of UNM students as part of [a series](#) of student stories.

Craig White

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