

The Acting Provost's Weekly Brief

April 19, 2017

Good afternoon! I had the opportunity yesterday to attend the annual UNM Service Awards luncheon. The luncheon recognizes faculty and staff who have been employed at UNM for 15, 20, 25, 30, or more years (I am surprised and amazed at the number who have been here for 40 years and more!). This event is always inspirational. It is great to see the persistence and commitment of UNM employees working on all facets of the mission. People truly give a big part of their careers and themselves to this institution. That kind of service and commitment to one employer is a rarity in today's world. It is a large part of what makes UNM a special place to work.

I would like to remind faculty to submit your book orders and course material information to the UNM Bookstore for summer and fall. This helps the bookstore keep student costs low for books and other course materials. The Bookstore can offer more money at "Buyback" if your book is being used in a future term, so please look for the email sent on April 12 for your personalized link to the textbook adoption platform. If you can't find your link, contact Jonathan Benavides at jonb@unm.edu.

Honors College Dean Search

The first of three finalists for the position of dean of the UNM Honors College is on campus today. Ken Mulliken, currently the executive director of the Honors College at Southern Oregon University, has an open forum from 3-4:30 p.m. today in the Honors College Forum. Ann Eisenberg, professor of psychology in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at San Antonio, will visit April 27-28. Greg Lanier, director of the Kugelman Honors Program at the University of West Florida, will be on campus May 3-4. For more information, see the press release at news.unm.edu.

Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents held its April meeting yesterday morning. The meeting included a variety of topics. One of these was the selection of the external auditors for the university. This year, the external auditors will be Moss Adams for main campus and KPMG (Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler) for the Health Sciences Center. The Regents approved a Form D for a new Native American studies program. This program, which is building on existing faculty resources, received broad support and is likely to generate a lot of interest among students. The Regents also addressed the FY18 employee benefit plans. The approved plan was to keep the benefits package the same as last year. It also results in

approximately a five percent increase to employee premiums. Finally, the meeting also included a large number of interested parties commenting on the announced elimination of the ski team.

Lobo Reading Experience

The Lobo Reading Experience recently announced the book selection for the 2017-18 academic year: “[Just Mercy](#),” a memoir written by the renowned attorney and social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson, is a story about a young college student who changed a nation. The book is a timely selection that will encourage campus-wide conversations around identity and social justice. As the Lobo Reading Experience selection, “Just Mercy” will be integrated into classrooms and brought to life through campus wide events. For a taste of what the Lobo Reading Experience will bring, see [Stevenson's Ted Talk](#).

Ceja Vineyards

I very much enjoyed the presentation at the Anderson School's Student Center for the Public Trust. The speaker was Amelia Ceja. Amelia is the President of Ceja Vineyards of Napa, California. Her family story is one of persistence, hard work, and success. Amelia's father was an undocumented farm worker from Mexico working in central California. He eventually moved the family from Mexico to Napa Valley. Through hard work and savings the family bought its own vineyard and grew the business from there. Today, Ceja Vineyards is a well-known and respected maker of its own wines and grower of grapes for other producers. Amelia's talk was very well received by the students. It was great to have her as a guest at UNM.



With Amelia Ceja and Anderson School faculty member John Reed.

UNM Proud

I came across a great [series of videos](#) produced by University Communication and Marketing called UNM Proud. This [video](#) highlighted Derek Anderson, a UNM alumnus who worked as a programmer and at Sandia National Labs, and eventually became a manager at Ninja Park in Albuquerque. He used the accounting and marketing skills he gained at UNM to run a business he enjoys. The videos are brief celebrations of the many fascinating people that make up our community.



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.