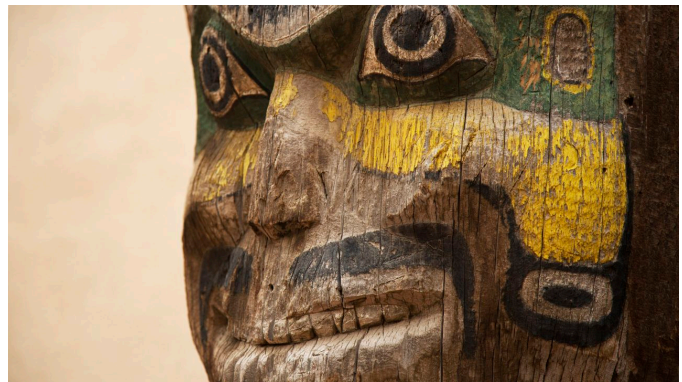


# The Interim Provost's Weekly Brief

**September 29, 2017**

Happy Homecoming! I hope you have had a good week. With the rain and cooler temperatures, fall weather has arrived.


To begin today's Weekly Brief, I wanted to let you know about an initiative that will be taking place this semester and continuing into spring: campus discussions regarding symbols at UNM and their current and historical contexts. The conversation is particularly timely given the national debate concerning the status of Confederate monuments, and other controversial public art.



This work began with assessing the UNM seal and moving towards a symbol that is a better representation of today's campus community, and the state of New Mexico. Interim Associate Provost Alex Lubin will establish a group to continue this discussion and broaden it to include student, faculty, and staff concerns regarding Zimmerman Library's "Three Peoples Murals," by Kenneth Adams. Dr. Lubin will be working with the group to develop innovative ways to preserve these murals while providing means for diversity of opinion. The group will also be interacting with students in a class, "Art and Social Justice," that College of Fine Arts Dean Kym Pinder will teach this Spring.



Respectful discussion is crucial to the process of finding creative solutions to community challenges. This is evident in the example of the [Smith Family totem pole](#). The totem pole was acquired in the early part of this past century without the family's knowledge and through questionable means. It was displayed for years outdoors—subject to the elements and without upkeep.



The University recently acknowledged this history and expressed to the Smith Family a desire to refurbish the totem pole and treat it with proper respect and care. Interim President Abdallah recently expressed his regret on behalf of the University for these prior actions, along with the hope and promise of moving into a new chapter with the totem pole's rededication ceremony. The Smith Family participated in the blessing and rededication ceremony. I have included a picture from an earlier UNM news release of the totem pole prior to refurbishment (at the top of the previous page), and one I took recently (near the bottom of the previous page). The results are amazing. You can see a short video about the restoration process [here](#). If you haven't already, I encourage you to drop by the Hibben Center sometime to see the totem pole. I think you will be proud that this work is at UNM.

### **Gallup Chief Executive Officer Search Finalists**

We announced earlier this week that we are bringing in five finalists for the Chief Executive Officer position at Gallup Campus. The national search produced a deep pool of highly qualified candidates who will be visiting campus in October, with a final decision to follow in November. More information on the finalists and their visit dates can be found [here](#).

### **Shared Knowledge Conference Proposals**


[The Fall 2017 Shared Knowledge Conference](#) is fast approaching, and presentation proposals are due on Oct. 9. The Shared Knowledge Conference has two different showcases, the LoboBITES competition—competitive three-minute presentations—and poster presentations. The Shared Knowledge Conference will take place on Nov. 9 from 9-5 p.m. in Hodgin Hall. For information on proposal submissions, please visit the [Graduate Studies conference webpage](#).

### **Pre-Law Summer Institute 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The American Indian Law Center is celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Pre-Law Summer Institute for American Indians and Alaska Natives (PLSI). According to the [press release](#), "The PLSI program started in 1967 with the mission of increasing the number of American Indian and Alaska Native law students and the number of Native American lawyers. Since then, over 1,200 Native Americans have gone through PLSI, many of whom have gone to law school with a law school graduation success rate of approximately 90%." The celebration began yesterday and ends today at Isleta Resort and Casino. Congratulations to the faculty, staff, and students involved with the PLSI program!

### **#ItsOnUs ASUNM Campaign Against Sexual Assault**

The Associate Students of The University of New Mexico (ASUNM) have been working to bring the national "[It's On Us](#)" campaign to UNM. The campaign is committed to ending sexual assault on campus.



The ASUNM president and vice president are leading the effort on campus, along with more than 30 senators and staff members. The effort has included walking students to classes and talking about steps the campus community can take to end sexual assault. We are fortunate to have so many ambitious and socially-minded students on our campus, and this is something that often gets less attention than it deserves. Though, in this case, the ASUNM student leaders received [national attention](#) for the local campaign.

### **UNM Bookstore Inclusive Access**

The UNM Bookstore is hosting two sessions on Inclusive Access for faculty on Tuesday, Oct. 3rd. With Inclusive Access you can adopt first-day-of-class delivery of digital course materials—including eBooks and adaptive learning codes like MyLabs, Connect, and Revel—for your course at UNM. Inclusive Access saves students money, and delivers digital content to all students by the first day of class. Sessions will be held in the CTLB (Collaborative Teaching and Learning Building, #55). Remote Access and recording will be available. For more information, and to register, please visit the [event webpage](#).

## **Craig White**

**Interim 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).