



# The Wednesday Communiqué

**March 7, 2018**

*We need to be schooled in tradition but not hostage to it.*

—Jeremiah Tower

## **Re-Engineering the University**

First as provost, then as both acting and interim president, I have described the need to re-engineer the university to address the confluence of challenges faced by public higher education, and UNM in particular. There has been progress towards this effort and you will be receiving periodic updates and requests in the next few days and weeks. In the meantime, please take a look at [strategy.unm.edu](http://strategy.unm.edu). I take this opportunity, as I assume my role as provost again, to remind our campus that a “house divided against itself cannot stand,” and that as a University we will only thrive in the face of national trends and local challenges if we all join in.

## **The FY 2019 Budget**

As you know by now, the legislature forwarded to the governor a budget (HB2) that included about a 2% increase of our I&G (Instruction and General) base, as well as a redistribution of 4% (so-called formula funding) based on outcomes performance. In addition, the State funded a cost of living adjustment of about 2%, BUT, the adjustment only applies to those paid from the State allocation (I&G). In effect, this translates to around 1% of our salaries. The total increase is around \$6.478 million for the main campus I&G. The Health Center I&G also increased by \$1.063 million. The branches received their own separate increase in State funding of around \$436,000. In addition, the capital outlay bill (HB306) had a number of projects that received funding to the tune of \$2.66 million. The governor signed HB306 today but vetoed a variety of projects totaling around \$900,000 (see [here](#) for more details). The next milestone is when our board of regents will approve UNM’s budget during the Budget Summit. Despite this increased funding, a difficult budget year looms due to declines in enrollment-driven funding, backfilling cuts from previous years, less-than-full funding for salary increases, and other factors.

## **Thank you LoboTHONners**

Thank you for raising over \$95,000 for UNM Children’s hospital. You shattered the goal by more than \$30,000 and showed everyone what a pack of determined Lobos can do!

## **The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Q's Outstanding Awards Ceremony**

The University of New Mexico was honored on Saturday, March 3 at the 9th Annual Q's Outstanding Awards Ceremony as the 2018 OUTstanding School. A delegation of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners were on hand to accept the award on behalf of the University of New Mexico's LGBTQ Resource Center and the Division for Equity and Inclusion. UNM was recognized in the education category for outstanding commitment to the LGBTQ community. Albuquerque Pride, Inc. hosts this event each year to honor the people, businesses, corporations and advocates that support or contribute to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer/questioning community. This event is an opportunity to recognize OUTstanding contributions in the LGBTIQ Community, and also assists Albuquerque Pride, Inc. to advance their scholarship program and other community events and programs.

## **International Women's Day**

International Women's Day is tomorrow. It was [first observed](#) in 1911, a year after it was proposed during the International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen, and two years after a similar National Women's Day was declared by the Socialist Party of America. Since then the day has become a global occasion for organization, celebration, and a call to action in advancing gender parity around the world.

## **Diverse Career Paths for Ph.D.s**

If you happened to read the Chronicle of Higher Education this weekend, you may have noticed [an article](#) by our own Virginia Scharff, distinguished professor in the History Department and former associate provost in academic affairs. In the Chronicle article, she writes about preparing graduates for a wide range of careers, and about the UNM History Department's role as one of four pilot institutions in the American Historical Association's "Career Diversity for Historians" initiative.

## **Chaouki Abdallah**

**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).