The Wednesday Communiqué

May 2, 2018

The Economics of Higher Education

Part of the process of re-designing the university involves understanding the financial models of higher education. In our own re-design effort, one of our seven taskforces, taskforce 3, is focusing on this aspect of the university. While there are many relevant research results that help explain the challenges of current funding models, I found this paper, from Education Next, to be accessible and to provide a comprehensive assessment of how public higher education is currently funded from the states. Another article, this one from Hanover Research, describes the various budget models within the university. On the other hand, research on the economic return of college should also be reviewed as we attempt to advocate and explain the value of a college degree as described here and here.

Two Spaces or One?

Have you ever wondered whether you should use one space or two after the punctuation at the end of a sentence? It turns out that someone has studied "The effect of spacing following periods and commas during reading." In case you are wondering and do not wish to read the full article, two spaces are better than one! [Note from the editor: I've been removing the provost's second space for the past five years. Mea culpa.]

Fall Textbook Orders

A note for faculty: Please submit your Fall textbook orders now. If a book is being used again, the Bookstore can offer more money back to students reselling or returning their books. This helps the Bookstore, since they reduce costs on shipping, and those savings can then be passed on to our students. Please take a few minutes and review your needs for your Fall courses. Remember, if you need assistance with the online tool or have questions about the titles you wish to adopt for your courses, please email textbook@unm.edu.

King of the Bemba Tribe of Zambia to Visit UNM

Please join UNM as we welcome His Majesty Chitimukulu-Kanyanta Sosala Manga II, King of the Bemba Tribe of Zambia on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 5 p.m. in Mitchell Hall, Room 122 for a free public lecture and reception in his honor. He will speak on "Girls and Women: Hope for Our People, Our World." The event is sponsored by Women to Be and University College.

His Majesty is visiting Albuquerque with the Zambia delegation and looks forward to interacting with students, faculty, staff, and our Albuquerque community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Prof. Sonia Rankin at 505-277-6515. This event is open to all.

Professor Jeffrey Brinker Elected to National Academy

Congratulations to Jeffrey Brinker, Distinguished Professor and Regents' Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, who was <u>recently elected</u> as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Chaouki Abdallah

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

A PDF version of this weekly brief is available on the <u>Academic Affairs website</u>. Your feedback and input are welcome at <u>provost@unm.edu</u>.