

March 5, 2018



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good morning!

The University of New Mexico is truly like no other place, and I am honored to begin my service as its 23rd president. In my first official message to the campus community, I want to begin by thanking all of you. I am very appreciative of the overwhelming enthusiasm and support from our students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the Lobo family. These expressions of welcome and encouragement remind me what a privilege it is to have been selected to live in this wonderful and deeply rooted community filled with remarkable people and surrounded by so much natural beauty. Moreover, I am grateful for your eagerness to work with me to advance UNM, together.

Public research universities were created to serve public interests, and my goal as president is to build on the foundation of UNM's current successes, while also seeking innovative ways to educate our students and expand our research in a globally competitive and culturally diverse environment. In order to be successful, I will need your help. In the coming weeks and months, I hope to meet as many of you as possible and am interested in hearing your thoughts or questions. I understand that communication is critical and, most importantly, runs in two directions. To that end, my office will be reaching out to the UNM community to get input on ways to create more opportunities for involvement, and to identify common goals that support a unified direction for our University.

I know you are all very interested in my vision and plans for the future. Let me first say this is a shared process and journey, and I won't have all the answers right way. But this does not mean we do not have momentum or purpose. What I can promise you is my approach to this job is one of inclusion and being well-informed, with the best interests of UNM and the people we serve as our core focus. I plan to learn and become familiar with the current operations and functions of the institution, as well as the many ways we impact the citizens of New Mexico, in order to make thoughtful and pragmatic decisions. I am committed to leading our University by engaging and empowering all Lobos and am looking forward to working together to build an exciting future for UNM.

Go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President

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