



## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Communicating what we do and how we do it, from how we develop a budget to how we solve complex social problems, is how we live up to our flagship name and position ourselves for the future.

### **FY2019 budget brings positive changes**

Last week's [budget summit](#) was the first I attended at UNM, and I believe we were successful in adopting a responsible and realistic budget that supports our mission, the UNM community and the people we serve. This campus community has tightened its belt much more than was ever expected, but the fiscal year 2019 spending proposal put forward by the Budget Leadership Team and approved by the UNM Board of Regents will hopefully bring a little reprieve. Yes, it does raise tuition 2.5 percent – but with the increased revenue we will be able to implement greater safety measures across campus, including more cameras and lighting. The FY2019 budget also includes no significant financial restrictions to academic programs and a 1 percent salary increase – a bump that is much-deserved and too long coming for staff and faculty. I was particularly impressed by the level of student participation and very appreciative of their thoughtful comments and passion for their university. Many thanks to each and every person who contributed to and took part in the process.

### **Raising the bar of faculty diversity**

According to new data, the UNM School of Engineering's department of computer science is changing the landscape of STEM faculty, with significantly more female faculty than average departments across the country. The national average for women faculty in CS departments is about 20 percent. In UNM's CS department, 40 percent of our faculty are women. This shows that the resources we're putting into STEM initiatives are working – [ADVANCE at UNM](#) and [CSforALL](#) are successfully driving more females into science sectors. I'm proud of the work being done to create more diversity on a campus that is already distinct in its heterogeneity – where each of us defines all of us.

### **63rd Annual Research Lecture**

As I continue to become more immersed in the outstanding research being conducted at UNM, I was recently made aware of an honor awarded to a faculty member in recognition of their research and creative activity. The Annual Research Lecture, presented by the Office of the Vice President for Research, has been awarded annually at UNM since 1954. A review of the past list of award-winners reveals an incredible breadth of research and innovation over the years, with this year's recipient being no exception. Congratulations to Dr. Barbara McCrady, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and the [director of UNM's Center on Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Addictions](#) (CASAA), which specializes in research on the treatment of alcohol and drug problems, with a particular emphasis on families and support systems. Much of Dr. McCrady's career has been devoted to examining Alcohol Behavioral Couple Therapy (ABCT), which she developed. As part

of her recognition, Dr. McCrady will present a lecture, "[Til Death Do Us Part: A Lifetime of Research to Better Understand and Treat Alcohol Disorders in the Family](#)," on Wednesday, April 4 in the Centennial Engineering Center. Dr. McCrady's lecture will undoubtedly give us greater insight into a serious social issue.

## Improving our communication

I've heard from many of you how important communication is at all levels, especially within our own community. With so many messages competing for our attention in so many different ways, it can sometimes be overwhelming. I've asked University Communication and Marketing (UCAM) to conduct a [brief internal communications survey](#) to better learn your preferences and gather your insights to help evolve the channels and methods of communication, including this weekly message from me. I hope you'll take the time to participate.

## Ask a Lobo

Many thanks to those of you who shared your favorite hiking spots with me last week! Yesterday, my husband and I hiked the Tree Spring Trail in the Sandia Mountains. It was a beautiful day to be outside, and we had a wonderful time. We look forward to hiking more of the recommended trails in the coming months. This week, I would love to hear about your favorite best kept secret at UNM. Please feel free to respond [via email](#) or on Twitter ([@PresidentStokes](#)) #AskALobo. I really look forward to learning from you!

Go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes  
President

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