

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

It is hard to believe that yesterday marked one month since I officially came onboard here at UNM – and what an exciting month it has been. I have found that one cannot really know the character of a place until one is immersed in it.

Excellence in Student Scholarship

It is my very great pleasure to announce that two UNM students have once again been nationally recognized as recipients of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program, which supports students who intend to pursue careers in science, mathematics and engineering. Lauren Zundel, a senior majoring in physics & mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences, intends to conduct research in the area of theoretical nanophotonics and teach at the university level after obtaining a Ph.D. Esteban Abeyta, a senior majoring in biochemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences, plans to get a Ph.D. and research pathogenic mechanisms that lead to diagnostic tools, vaccine development and the study of novel targets for drugs. The recognition of these students reflects strongly on their intellectual drive and the education that UNM affords undergraduates to engage in meaningful research, as well as the dedication and support of their faculty mentors. Congratulations!

Let's be Healthy Together

Getting out of the office to walk is not only good for our health, but a great way to enjoy our beautiful campus. This Wednesday is the American Heart Association's National Walking Day, and Employee Wellness is hosting its annual [Walk Out on Work Wednesday](#) event. I will be taking advantage of the opportunity to enjoy a 45-minute walk at 11:30 a.m., beginning on the north side of Scholes Hall. There are a number of places, times and distances, if you would like to [connect with the larger group](#). I hope you join me in making strides to improve your overall health and wellbeing by adding a bit of physical activity to the day.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is also [Sexual Assault Awareness Month \(SAAM\)](#). This year, the national SAAM committee chose the theme "Embrace Your Voice" and is encouraging people to learn how to use words stop sexual assault before it happens. The UNM SAAM committee, LOBO Respect Advocacy Center and others are working tirelessly to organize [events supporting sexual assault awareness](#). Students are also encouraged to take part in the ongoing [Campus Climate Survey](#) – which will help us assess and improve upon what we are doing on campus to address sexual violence.

Thank you to all students who completed our mandatory, online training for sexual assault prevention by the April 1 deadline. For those of you who have not completed your training, there is still time. "Think About It" takes about 45 minutes to complete. You can work at your own pace from any computer (requires Flash player). Please check your email for a message from the LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center to complete

this important training. This initiative is being coordinated by the LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center. Please contact the Center at loborespect@unm.edu or by phone at 505-277-2911 with any questions about the "Think About It" training or your training requirements.

Connecting to Campus

I am grateful for the many invitations I have been receiving to attend events and meet with people, in an effort for us to get to know one another. Your thoughts, ideas and questions are all welcome, and have been so helpful. Last week, I took part in a town hall hosted and moderated by the Daily Lobo. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with students who are applying their knowledge to practical skills, and I appreciate the time and effort that went into preparing the event. For those of you who couldn't make it, you can watch a video of the town hall on the [Daily Lobo's Facebook page](#). I look forward to many more such chances to interact directly with our students and other members of the Lobo family.

Increasing Campus Safety

I want to reiterate the message I sent out last week, about remaining vigilant on campus and watching out for one another. As an urban campus, we face the challenges of open access to our grounds, which can at times cause safety concerns. I am working with departments across campus to distribute the \$415,000 dollars recently allocated by the Board of Regents to increase safety measures. In addition, I urge you to remain attentive when on campus after hours and utilize the additional tools available through the [Campus Safety Office](#).

Ask a Lobo

The question I have for you this week is: What do you think is UNM's greatest strength? 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

Feel free to reach out to me at presidentstokes@unm.edu.

Follow me on twitter [@PresidentStokes](#)