

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Some may think summer is a slow time at a university, but I think we can all agree it's anything but. Across campus I see staff and faculty working hard, despite the summer heat, to ready the campus for the fall semester. This was recently evidenced in the outdoor seating and light poles that PPD re-painted near the SUB and the continuous flow of new students and their parents taking part in orientation. Many thanks to all of you for doing your part to provide the best Lobo experience to our students.

Powering UNM Research

As one of only 115 schools classified as an R1 Research University in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, it is part of the UNM mission to tackle social issues and generate new knowledge drawn from multiple disciplines. Recently, UNM researchers have been recognized for their contributions to the knowledge pool in the areas of [reframing addiction and substance abuse](#), [uncovering remnants of early solar systems](#), and [finding new ways to address hepatitis C and HIV](#). Additionally, the U.S. Department of Energy's Nuclear Energy University program [awarded UNM nearly \\$1.6 million](#), and the National Science Foundation [awarded \\$6.4 million](#) to the Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research site. These are just a few projects on a growing list of awards being funded by grants to our researchers and are a testament to the intellect, creativity and dedication found at UNM that advances New Mexico's standing in the scientific community.

Staff Changes in Office of the President

Libby Washburn, who has served dual roles as both chief of staff and chief compliance officer, will be leaving UNM at the end of the month to join her husband, former Dean of the UNM School of Law Kevin Washburn, at the University of Iowa where he was selected as dean of the College of Law, this past spring. Libby has been a valued colleague and instrumental in assisting me to successfully navigate the first five-months of my presidency. I am thankful for everything she has put into place for the future success of my administration. To ensure leadership and continuity within my office during this time of transition, [I am assigning her duties to three current university leaders](#) on an interim basis, effective Sept. 1. Terry Babbitt, vice provost of Enrollment and Analytics, will serve as interim chief of staff; Cinnamon Blair, chief marketing and communications officer, will serve as interim deputy chief of staff; and Francie Cordova, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, will serve as interim chief compliance officer. They will all retain their current positions and duties. Please join me in wishing Libby and her family the best of luck at UI.

Statewide Listening Tour: Santa Fe

It is not only our researchers who are bringing recognition to our school and state. UNM's arts programs are thriving as well—which was evident on the most recent leg of my statewide listening tour. Last week, I had the pleasure of exploring some of the City Different's unique art and cultural opportunities. My first stop was to the renowned Meow Wolf immersive art experience, where I met Conor Peterson and Chris Clavio, two UNM alumni who work at the world-famous attraction, designing and engineering new ways to celebrate

and showcase creative minds. I also visited the Exhibit Manufacturing Facility where they are developing new and exciting experiences for visitors as their company expands their footprint to include new facilities in Las Vegas, Nev. and Denver, Colo. I also had the pleasure of touring the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, where I learned about the educational opportunities they provide for native artists and the impact this has on the national art landscape. The contributions and impact that UNM has on this great state are significant. Thematic to this brief visit was the need to create more internship opportunities for our students before they graduate to provide career paths that align with their studies and passions. I will be headed north to Las Vegas, Raton, Tucumcari and Santa Rosa this week. Please follow me on Twitter [@PresidentStokes](https://twitter.com/PresidentStokes) as I continue to learn about the role UNM plays throughout the state and to let our communities know that we are the University for New Mexico.

Popejoy Offers Lobo Discounts

While on the subject of the arts, one of the premiere performance spaces in the state is right here on UNM's campus. Popejoy Hall is offering [special discounts to faculty, staff, and students](#). Those eligible can receive tickets half-priced for upcoming performances. "Cats" and "Rent" are among the shows slated for the 2018-2019 season, so think about getting tickets early for you and your friends and family.

Have a great week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President

Feel free to reach out to me at presidentstokes@unm.edu.
Follow me on twitter [@PresidentStokes](https://twitter.com/PresidentStokes)