



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



September 10, 2018

Good afternoon.

UNM by no means exists within a static environment; we must constantly evaluate, adapt, and respond to improve the experiences and services we provide to our students and the citizens of New Mexico. I came to UNM because I believe there is much we can accomplish together.

State of the University

Monday, Sept. 17 will mark my 200th day as UNM's president—a perfect time to report to our community what we have accomplished and the opportunities on the horizon. I will also be sharing how what I have learned about our role in the state will inform how we approach our mission and how we deliver the Lobo experience. I am pleased to invite all who can attend to my State of the University address on Monday at noon in SUB Ballroom C. The address will also be livestreamed and saved for future viewing on UNM's Facebook page. [In addition to the address, events and symposia](#), from student research presentations to faculty performances, are planned throughout the week to mark the occasion and promote the incredible things happening at the University.

Public Records Management Retention

As a public institution, The University of New Mexico recognizes the preservation and accessibility of documents is essential to upholding best business practices and maintaining public trust. [Policy 6020 in the Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual](#), which was adopted earlier this summer, outlines the University's dedication to records retention regulations. As stewards of the public trust, each of us should strive to maintain healthy habits regarding the gathering and maintaining of documents – from written correspondence and inner-office mail, to emails and other electronic communication. The job of retaining records does not solely fall to the records management department, the archives department or other university records managers – it should be a priority for all of us as we go about our work. I recognize that the volume of requests for information has grown exponentially over the past few years, and we are making a best faith effort to respond in a timely and consistent manner. We have added resources to support these efforts and will continue to provide educational opportunities to the campus on the retention and management of records, especially to those who play an active role in the compilation of public information responses.

General Obligation Bond D for Higher Education

The state's system of higher education plays a critical role in making New Mexico more economically innovative and competitive with surrounding states. When New Mexico's colleges and universities are nationally competitive, they attract and retain immense talent and those graduates make up a highly skilled workforce that is based right here in New Mexico. In the upcoming general election, one of the statewide ballot issues that will impact UNM, as well as most universities in New Mexico, is [General Obligation](#)

[\(GO\) Bond D](#). Bond D will provide higher education funding that will support facility updates and new technologies and will add approximately 1,300 new jobs to support the New Mexico economy. For [UNM](#), \$27,275,000 will support the renovation of our [Chemistry](#) and [ROTC facilities](#), as well as the construction of the [UNM Taos Branch College Pathways to Careers Center](#). In the past, projects that have been funded through GO Bonds include the Farris Engineering Center and the PAIS building. While the election is on Nov. 6, absentee voting for New Mexico begins on Oct. 9 and in-person early voting will start on Saturday, Oct. 20 through Saturday, Nov. 3. I strongly encourage you to talk with your family and friends about the importance of the GO Bond for our students and for the state.

Loretta Martinez Appointed UNM Chief Legal Counsel

I am pleased to announce that [I have appointed Loretta Martinez to become Chief Legal Counsel](#), effective Oct. 1, 2018. Currently, she is the General Counsel and Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs for The City University of New York. Emerging as the top candidate in a national search, she is a recognized leader and expert on a broad array of legal issues in higher education, including public private partnerships to expand academic programs and industry connections for students, board and university governance, and civil rights laws including Title IX. Please join me in welcoming Loretta to the Lobo family.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank Alfred Mathewson for serving as acting chief legal counsel since June 1, 2018. His legal expertise and institutional knowledge of UNM have been invaluable. Alfred, who has announced he will be retiring from UNM at the end of this year, will assist in supporting Loretta and my office through December.

Have a great week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President

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