



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 11, 2019

Good afternoon.

Campus will be a little quieter this week, with most of our student Lobos on Spring break, so I'll keep this week's message brief. Whether you spend time catching up on to-do lists, enjoying our great state, travelling outside the state or just staying home, I hope those of you who are off enjoy your time away. To those who remain on campus, I hope you enjoy a relatively quiet week. Thank you for your continued commitment to UNM!

## **Celebrating Women's History Month**

Across the United States, women are continuing to ignite significant national conversations, touching on equality, leadership and societal reform. This month is Women's History Month, when we take time to honor the impact, contributions and historic achievements of women, from our family members to our country's leaders. In the past year, a [record number of women](#) began serving in the U.S. 116th Congress; they jump-started the conversation about harassment and sexual assault through the international #MeToo movement; and here in Albuquerque, thousands gathered in Civic Plaza for the third annual Women's March. At UNM, we are marking the occasion with several open house events across campus hosted by the Women's Resource Center and [presentations by the History Department](#).

## **Creating Leaders in Global and National Security**

Part of being the University for New Mexico includes recognizing global developments that impact our local curriculum. The proposed Master's Degree in Global and National Security does just that, juxtaposing the major themes of globalization, technology, environmentalism, policy and law. The program, now in its final approval stage, is sure to [produce strong workers for emerging career paths](#), while infusing existing ones with high quality, well-educated employees. With Sandia National Labs, LANL, the Air Force Research Lab and others based right here in New Mexico, our students have unique opportunities to utilize their skills, gain new insight and learn from future employers while still earning their degree. I'm eager to see how the program develops and would like to offer my personal congratulations to Dr. Emil Nakhleh and those who supported the efforts to make it a reality.

## **Appreciation for Campus Support of HLC Visit**

Last week we hosted the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) on Main Campus, following the team's visit to the Gallup and Taos branch campuses. Their formal assessment is still several weeks away but, to echo Interim Provost Rich Wood, the early reports we're hearing about the visit trend positive. Many thanks to those of you who attended the listening sessions, both in-person and via Zoom. Also, thanks to the UNM staff, faculty and students who put in countless hours to ensure quality preparations that ensured a successful visit.

## **Mountain West Tournament Begins - Go Lobos!**

Our Lobo student-athletes continue to make us proud, and represent UNM and the entire state to a national audience. Congratulations to our women's basketball team including Player of the Year Jaisa Nunn, Newcomer of the Year Aisia Robertson, Freshman of the Year Jayla Everett and Nike McClure on her selection to the All-Defensive team. Nunn and Robertson were also named to the All-Mountain West team, while Everett was an honorable mention selection. The women's team opens play in the MW Tournament tonight, while the men's team begins play Wednesday. Let's all wish both our men's and women's Lobo basketball teams the best of luck this week as they represent UNM and the great state of New Mexico in the Mountain West Tournament in Las Vegas.

## **Congratulations to Our NCAA Competitors**

I also want to extend congratulations to both the women's track and field participants at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championship on their record-setting fifth place finish, and the men's and women's ski teams who competed in the NCAA Skiing Championships and placed sixth overall, including a first place team finish in the men's slalom.

Congratulations to Weini Kelati, Ednah Kurgat and Charlotte Prouse each of whom placed in the top-5 in the 5,000-meter run at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. Kelati also placed third in the 3,000 meter. Each student-athlete earned first team all-America status with those finishes.

At the NCAA Skiing Championships, Ricardo Izquierdo-Bernier became UNM's first-ever individual to win the NCAA men's Nordic Classical title. Congratulations to alpine skiers Vegard Busengdal, Alex Barounos and Olav Sanderberg, who led UNM to the slalom team title, and also to Nordic skier Kornelius Gray, each of whom earned All-America honors.

Have a great week, and happy Spring break!

Garnett S. Stokes  
President