



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



April 8, 2019

Good afternoon.

We are almost a month away from the end of the semester, and I know our students are working harder than ever, especially those who will be completing their degrees and becoming our newest alums. Our faculty and staff, too, are pulling out all the stops to support them in every way possible. Student success will always be our first priority, and I appreciate the shared commitment we have as a campus to infusing that critical purpose in everything we do.

Lobos Writing the Future

Our students are writing their own success stories, and we are seeing those narratives being recognized across the country. Recently, two of our undergraduate students were acknowledged nationally for their accomplishments. Sophomore Hannah Dille, of UNM-Valencia, was [named one of only 150 2019 Coca-Cola Academic Scholars](#). This award will help her continue pursuing her goal of working for the FBI after completing her double major in math and general science. Also, Bibiana Elisabeth Seng, a senior studying applied math and statistics, was [chosen out of hundreds of applicants to present her research on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.](#) She will travel there later this month to take part in [Posters on the Hill](#) and bring back to campus invaluable knowledge and experience to share with other students. Student success stories like Hannah's and Bibiana's are essential to furthering the message of UNM being the University for New Mexico, as is the mentorship and encouragement given to them by their faculty. Congratulations!

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to Speak at Spring Commencement

I'm excited to let you all know that [Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham will be delivering the commencement address](#) to our graduating class of spring 2019. A true Lobo, Gov. Lujan Grisham earned both her undergraduate and law degrees from UNM. I would like to express my appreciation to our student leaders for letting us know that the Governor was their choice to share her message of congratulations and inspiration as they celebrate this well-earned milestone.

Fiestas! 2019 and Other Activities

As campus residents, Jeff and I are fortunate to be able to take part in the many activities and events that happen on campus, even on the weekends. On Saturday, we stopped by the first-ever UNM transfer day at which prospective transfer students from all over the state were invited to learn more about UNM. We hosted nearly 300 people, and our schools and colleges did an excellent job of providing detailed pre-advising presentations to future Lobo prospects. We then went to the [Don Kirby Tailwind Invitational](#) outdoor track and field competition, held at the Great Friends of UNM Track Stadium. This is UNM's only outdoor home meet of the season, and the Lobos didn't disappoint, winning in 10 events and posting 10 runner-up finishes. Later that day we headed to Johnson Field for the Fiestas! outdoor concert festival, one of the largest student celebrations of the year, put on by ASUNM Student Special Events. It was a beautiful

day and a reminder that experiences like these make campus living more meaningful and bring Lobos together in many ways. A quick reminder that [Spring Storm](#), UNM's biggest student-driven community service project, will be next weekend, so there is still time to sign up to volunteer.

FY2020 Budget Summit to be Held Tomorrow

Tomorrow, I will join the Board of Regents and other University leadership for the [annual Budget Summit](#). It will be held as part of the [regularly scheduled Board of Regents meeting](#) in SUB Ballroom C starting at 9 a.m.

Executive Searches Continue

On-campus forums are underway for candidates for the Vice President for Equity and Inclusion. One candidate joined us on campus last week and three more are visiting us this week. Each one will take part in a staff, student and community forum and then a separate faculty forum. I encourage you to take part in the forums if you are able, or [listen to the live broadcast](#) before filling out surveys on each candidate.

After hosting two candidates for the Provost and EVP of Academic Affairs position, I have received excellent feedback from the search committee and campus community - thank you for taking the time to attend and participate. As an update, we will not be interviewing a third candidate, so the times we were holding on April 10-11 can be released. I will continue to provide details regarding all the [executive searches](#) as they unfold and am very appreciative of the UNM community for contributing to the selection of the future leaders of our institution.

Have a great week, and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President