



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



September 09, 2019

Good afternoon.

One of the things that struck me about New Mexico when I first visited was the diversity of its people and their acceptance of one another's differences. We are one of only a handful of states classified as a minority-majority, and you can see the significant Hispanic influence throughout our state – from our cuisine and cultural events, to our architecture and entertainment styles. This month, University of New Mexico is honoring those roots by commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating our culture of contrast.

Hispanic Heritage Month originated in the late-1960s. It's celebrated from September 15 to October 15 every year – signifying the 30-day period during which five Latin American countries celebrated their independence (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua). Across our campus we will recognize the impacts and contributions made to New Mexico and our institution by [Hispanic and Latina/o Americans](#) through a series of events, panels and presentations. I hope you will join me in attending some of these events and learning more about the rich culture and history that helped shape the Land of Enchantment.

Grand Challenges Building Momentum

I'm excited to relay the UNM Grand Challenges have been gaining momentum all summer, as evidenced by several new developments. The teams are refining their research approaches, and you can now read more in-depth about their research philosophy and research questions on their new websites: [Sustainable Water Resources](#), [Substance Use Disorders](#), [Successful Aging](#).

In addition, the Substance Use Disorders team recently announced it has garnered funding for nine pilot projects. They will be studying many different substances across a range of populations and health systems. In addition, they are collaborating with numerous groups and departments across Central and North Campus including the Center on Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Addictions; Campus Office of Substance Abuse Prevention; Women's Resource Center; Institute for Social Research; Mind Research Network; and the Departments of Anthropology, Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Family and Community Medicine, Internal Medicine, Neurosciences, Pathology and Radiology, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and Psychology. I'm eager to see where the pilot studies lead and the impact they might have on this significant state and nation-wide issue.

On Institutional Ethics and Integrity

Where we are and where we aspire to be as a university is reflected in the decisions that have been made in the past and those we make now. Those decisions should be driven by shared institutional values that act as a common blueprint for the entire Lobo community. The ethical standards that we apply to those decisions necessitate us to establish, discuss, and follow principles of ethical practice. In keeping with my commitment

to improve our campus culture and processes, I have appointed a [Taskforce on Institutional Ethics and Integrity](#), which recently held its first meeting, to help guide the University across all institutional dimensions. My charge to the task force is to 'develop a campus-wide proposal of ethics-related initiatives, training, and best practices with the goal of creating and maintaining an ethically inspired environment at UNM based on strong moral conduct and compliance with applicable laws, rules, and guidance.' An [Ethics Tool Kit](#) has also been developed to serve as a resource that provides guidance for the campus. Our main campus compliance office staff is also available to answer questions regarding University ethics policies. Together, we will strengthen our ethical standards and practices to be consistent with our institutional values, culture and policies, informed by our own professional principles and personal values.

UNM Ranked Among Top 100 in the Country

Earlier today, U.S. News & World Report released its annual "Best Colleges" rankings and I'm pleased to announce UNM was represented in force. The School of Engineering ranked No. 93 for undergraduate engineering and Anderson ranked No. 128 for its undergraduate business program; and the University as a whole was listed No. 94 in the nation for Campus Ethnic Diversity and No. 105 for top public schools. There were [several other colleges and programs that made the list](#) and for the sake of brevity I have only mentioned a few of them here. However, please know I'm very proud of each of the programs that were recognized, and I appreciate the hard work, dedication and impact our students, faculty and staff are contributing to UNM and its success.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President