



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



October 07, 2019

Good afternoon.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, and just as each of us defines all of us, so, too, do the actions we take to protect one another. [One in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced domestic violence](#) by an intimate partner in their lifetimes. That is a statistic we can combat as a community – together. This year, the [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#) is focusing on raising awareness of healthy relationship habits and what that means to you. They are sharing responses from Lobos who express [what a healthy relationship looks like](#) to them and are using the hashtags [#domesticviolenceawareness](#) [#domesticviolencemonth](#) [#dvamonth](#) [#dvam2019](#). Then on Oct. 24, I encourage the whole campus community to wear purple in solidarity with the [National Network to End Domestic Violence](#). I am inspired everyday by acts of kindness, acceptance, and community I see on this campus and I believe together, we can make UNM an even better place for Lobos to live, learn, work and teach.

Our Commitment to Being a Military-Friendly Campus

As some of you might have heard, I jumped out of a perfectly good airplane last week, [riding tandem with the U.S. Army's Golden Knights](#). That moment of jumping into thin air at 12,000 feet was thrilling! But for the soldiers parachuting with me, it was a relatively short jump – only 20 seconds of free fall – because of New Mexico's high altitude. Even for that short duration, their cohesive showmanship and unfaltering communication reminded me of why it is so important to make sure UNM remains a military-friendly campus. Our ROTC, veteran, and active duty students represent the very best of what we can achieve as a country, and I'm dedicated to UNM doing its part to ensure their success. From our [Veterans Resource Center](#), to our [Veteran Hiring Preference Program](#), to our ROTC programs – we are the University for New Mexico and a University for veterans, military personnel, and their families.

Campus-wide Reception to Welcome New Leaders

We've welcomed many new leaders to UNM this year and I'd like to invite the campus community to a [reception to both celebrate them](#) and provide a chance to meet them. Please help me give a warm Lobo welcome to Teresa Costantinidis – SVP for Finance and Administration, Dan D. Garcia – VP for Enrollment Management, James P. Holloway – Provost & EVP for Academic Affairs, Jeff Todd – President & CEO of the UNM Foundation and Assata Zerai– VP for Equity & Inclusion at a reception on Tuesday, Oct. 8 from 3:30 – 5 p.m. in SUB Ballroom C. It will be a great time to meet our new leaders, talk to them about your concerns, and share your successes. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Spicy Kickoff to the 2019 UNM Gives Campaign

Today, we kicked off the [2019 UNM Gives Campaign](#) with our inaugural Salsa Showdown. The United Way of Central New Mexico is tallying the votes and the winner will be announced later this week. Thanks to

everyone who tasted and voted – we had a great turnout in the SUB Atrium and I'm hopeful this is indicative of the success of our giving campaign this year. UNM HSC Chancellor Roth and I also took part in refereeing [a friendly basketball game of L-O-B-O](#) among some of our campus leaders at The Pit last week to show our support for the campaign. The goal is to raise more than \$1 million to benefit our communities, so I'll continue to keep you updated throughout the month on our progress. To make a pledge to the UNM Gives Campaign benefiting the United Way of Central New Mexico and the UNM Foundation, or to log your volunteer efforts, please visit [UNM Gives](#).

Campus Outreach Critical to Understanding UNM

Over the last few weeks, I've had the pleasure of hosting office hours at locations across campus, including Information Technologies, Project ECHO and the Global Education Office. Traveling office hours are a great way to connect with me and help me understand problems or concerns and how we can address them moving forward – many thanks to everyone who attended and facilitated these events. This week, I'm holding office hours at [Ombuds Services for Staff](#), in conjunction with their [annual open house](#), focused on familiarizing campus with the services they provide. The Ombuds office is a vital resource that provides confidential, independent, informal and neutral navigation around topics and issues in the workplace. Please consider joining me to learn more about their process this Wednesday, Oct. 9 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. at 1800 Las Lomas Rd. NE, Building #29.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President