



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



May 26, 2020

Dear Fellow Lobos,

For those who had commencement postponed.
For those who watched their final semester recede into Zoom boxes.
For those who carried themselves with grace in the face of frustration.

We're thinking of you.

For those who had seasons cut short.
For those who had family celebrations canceled.
For those who defended their dissertations in a video conference.

We're thinking of you.

For those who submitted their final papers via Dropbox.
For those who couldn't pick up an award at an end-of-year ceremony.
For those who performed their final concerts alone in their living rooms, with their fellow performers piped in through headphones.

We're thinking of you.

For those who had game nights with friends canceled.
For those who need love, support, and understanding.
For those who celebrated virtually with family and friends.

We're thinking of you.

For those who persevered in the face of extraordinary conditions.
For those who adapted to an ever-changing situation.
And for those who never let disappointing circumstances diminish their sense of Lobo pride and tradition...

We're thinking of you, we're thankful for you, and we couldn't be prouder of you. Congratulations - and thank you - to the Class of 2020!

We'll be celebrating your accomplishments this Saturday, May 30, at 9:00 a.m. with a [virtual celebration](#)—and we're looking forward to a time when we can finally rejoice in person.

Honoring Patriotism, Valor, and the Ultimate Sacrifice

While these endless weeks of staying at home can often make the days blend together, I hope everyone remembered that yesterday was Memorial Day—a time to reflect on, commemorate, and express our gratitude for those men and women who have given their lives in service to our country. As a member of a military family—and someone proudly married to a retired U.S. Army Colonel—Memorial Day is a matter of personal pride and significance. “Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid,” wrote Harry S. Truman. “They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” Let us always remember the sacrifices, patriotism, and courage of our fallen soldiers, their family and their friends. We honor those who have served, and those who continue to serve, in the name of our nation, our freedom, and our liberty.

Annual Awards Celebrate 8,435 Years of Staff Excellence

Each year, UNM honors its faculty and staff who have served from 15 and 50 years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the usual in-person celebration had to be canceled, but the [service and dedication of our staff are always deserving of our continued thanks and appreciation](#). It is worth noting that we have two faculty members marking 50 years at UNM. And if one were to total the years of service achieved by our 420 honorees, it would add up to 8,435 years! The UNM community celebrates and thanks you for those amazing years of service—our university is a better place for your being here.

Have a good week, stay safe, and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President