



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 2, 2020

Good afternoon.

Lobo spirit is the energy created by the positive relationships we cultivate with each other and our community. It's forged from the connections we maintain over a lifetime and honed through continued engagement and participation in UNM life. Even as we continue to celebrate our oldest and most beloved traditions, I'm always excited to discover new ways to express our pride and optimism for the University for New Mexico.

UNM Students Recognized for Outstanding Achievements

Our students continue to ignite our Lobo spirit by taking the incredibly creative and innovative work they do in the classroom out into the world.

- Congratulations to [Joel Robinson, who was recently named as a finalist for the prestigious Truman Scholarship](#), founded in memory of President Harry S. Truman. The scholarship supports “young Americans who are making a difference and become part of the future of public services leadership” and provides up to \$30,000 for graduate study. Joel, a junior majoring in political science and economics with a focus on poverty and homelessness, will interview for the scholarship later this month.
- David Arnot, a junior from Albuquerque, is one of 60 presenters selected to [showcase his research on energy storage, titled “Development of Alkaline Zn/MnO₂ Batteries for Grid Energy Storage.”](#) at the 24th annual [Posters on the Hill](#) event on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. on April 20-21, 2020. David, a Regents Scholarship recipient and Honors College student, is pursuing a degree in chemical engineering and has been working at Sandia National Labs as a Research and Development intern. Congratulations, David!
- Major kudos to our undergraduate marketing students from the UNM Anderson School who received five recognitions at the New Mexico American Advertising Awards on February 29, which rewards creative excellence in advertising throughout the state. Student Best of Show was awarded to Michael Brown, Alex Ennis, Dylan Greenhaus and Ty Longmire-Monford for their “[Keep the Rio GRAND](#)” social media execution that focused on species in peril along the Rio Grande; the one-minute video also won a Gold ADDY and Judge’s Choice Award. Amanda Branom was recognized with a Silver ADDY for her “[Made You Look: Car Wash](#)” television spot, which was part of a first-place campaign launched by students in the advertising campaigns course in 2019 for the national Acura ILX Marketing Challenge. And a second Silver ADDY was awarded to Zachary Harper for his Lobo Men’s Basketball social media execution titled “[Lobos Win!](#)” The three local winners now advance to the district competition to compete against winners from other local clubs in the region.

Lobo First-Year Promise

As the University for New Mexico, a promise from us needs to be more than just saying we will do something; it also requires we have the resources, expertise, and structure in place to ensure we deliver on that promise with the highest standards of excellence. With that in mind, last week we announced the [Lobo](#)

[First-Year Promise](#) as our commitment to support first-time students' college enrollment in anticipation of future expansion of the Opportunity Scholarship at UNM. We are dedicated to making an excellent four-year education accessible to all New Mexicans, and we want prospective students to know they can be on the path to a UNM degree right away. Supporting our students throughout their time at UNM begins the moment they apply—and that's a Lobo promise.

Campus Visits Scheduled for Dean Candidates for the School of Architecture and Planning

As we continue with several very important academic leadership searches, three finalists for the [position of Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning](#) have been invited to visit campus during the weeks of March 9 and March 23. The candidates are: Julia Czerniak, Professor of Architecture and Associate Dean of the School of Architecture, Syracuse University; Barbara Bryson, Director of the Drachman Institute and Associate Dean for Research at the College of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture, University of Arizona; and Robert González, Professor and Regional Site Director and Director of Architecture in El Paso at the College of Architecture, Texas Tech University. [They will meet with faculty, staff, students and community members](#) during their visits.

Lobos Taking on the Mountain West Tournament

I'd like to wish our teams the best as they proudly represent UNM in various Mountain West Championship tournaments. All season long, our student-athletes have played tough, and played with heart. Over the weekend, our men's and women's indoor track and field teams finished third and fourth in their conferences, respectively, with several Lobos claiming titles outright in various events.

Meanwhile, in basketball, our scrappy Lobo women came up just short in the first round yesterday, falling 74-64 to Nevada. Our men's team is set to play against San Jose State on Wednesday, March 4. Lobo alums and fans who are in Las Vegas are invited to celebrate their Lobo spirit at the [Mountain West Tournament Rally](#), hosted by UNM Alumni Relations, before the game. Let's all support our student-athletes as they represent UNM during March Madness!

Finally, the much anticipated [new Lobo license plate](#) officially debuted last week at the Lobo Day birthday celebration, and will be available beginning March 6 for those drivers wishing to display their Lobo spirit.

Have a great week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President