



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 30, 2020

Good afternoon, Lobos.

Welcome back—virtually, at least—from what I hope was a warm and pleasant Thanksgiving break. We're now in entirely remote instruction until the beginning of our Spring 2021 semester, so wherever you may be reading this, I hope you're continuing to stay safe and are looking out for the health and well-being of those around you.

The last weeks of any semester, especially those days leading up to [final exams](#), are always stressful—but now add COVID-related anxiety to the mix, and it's a perfect storm of strain and worry. If you're feeling overwhelmed, worried, or just need someone to talk to, UNM offers many options to support your mental health. A great place to start is by exploring the comprehensive range of services available on [mentalhealth.unm.edu](#). Students desiring further assistance may call [Student Health and Counseling](#) at (505) 277-3136, while faculty and staff may call [Counseling, Assistance and Referral Services](#) at (505) 272-6868.

Support services and assistance are also available from the [Women's Resource Center](#), the [Veteran's Resource Center](#), the [LGBTQ Resource Center](#), [African American Student Services](#), [El Centro de la Raza](#), [American Indian Student Services](#), and the [College Enrichment Program](#).

If you're struggling with coursework—again, understandable at this unprecedented time--[peer tutoring](#) is available online. You may also reach out to [Lobo Respect Advocacy Center](#) if you need help asking your instructor for extra flexibility, or if you need help finding resources like the food pantry or crisis help. Moving forward into Spring, your academic advisor can also help you make smart decisions about next steps with your classes and major.

Finally, look for ways to connect with friends and family, and agree to a plan to keep everyone connected and safe. Arrange for virtual study sessions and social gatherings with people in your classes so that you don't feel alone or isolated. Set up a regular time to talk with family or distant friends.

And as always, do everything to keep yourself and others safe and healthy. Stay home as much as you can, wash your hands--and if you must go out, wear those masks and maintain a safe physical distance. As Lobos, we look out for our pack, and we've got each other's backs.

New Mexico Legislature Holds COVID-related Special Session

Last week, the State legislature entered into a special session to draft and approve a bipartisan \$330 million COVID-related relief bill for New Mexicans. While it does not include targeted relief for colleges and universities, the final legislation provides some much-needed assistance for low-income residents and local

businesses, along with additional funding for unemployment payments, emergency housing, and food banks. I'm grateful to our state leaders for providing this much-needed assistance and look forward to continuing to work together on behalf of our state and community when the 2021 legislative session begins in January.

Welcome Doug Ziedonis, EVP for Health Sciences

Earlier this year, we conducted a national search for the next person to lead UNM Health Sciences in delivering on our commitment to offering excellence across all aspects of education, research and clinical care and to HSC's mission to improve health outcomes for all New Mexicans. It is such a pleasure to welcome Dr. Doug Ziedonis, Executive Vice President for Health Sciences, to UNM and the Lobo family. He officially starts tomorrow but has already been laying the groundwork for a successful transition over the past several weeks. Please join me in giving him a warm reception as he makes UNM and New Mexico his new home.

UNM Police Department Issues Annual Report on Crime Statistics

The safety and security of our campus and our campus community is one of our top institutional priorities, and one of the best assessment tools we have available is the [Annual Security and Fire Safety Report released by the UNM Police Department](#), detailing crime statistics for the prior calendar year and the previous three years in compliance with federal reporting requirements under the Clery Act. As a large, urban campus, we face some unique challenges, and I'm pleased there is some good news: the increased lighting and cameras around campus that we received funding to purchase and install seem to be making a difference, as we're seeing marked reductions across several categories of crime, including property crimes. Still, many challenges remain, and our ongoing efforts and initiatives for keeping our campus safe will remain a priority.

Through It All, Lobos Keeps Giving

Our annual [UNM Gives United Way campaign](#) continues through Tuesday, December 1—and our commitment to the United Way of Central New Mexico is just one of many ways we express our thanks for the continued support from the central New Mexico community. Thanks in part to contributions from Lobos, the United Way has this year provided \$2.1 million in impact grants, [which includes support for our Mission: Graduate initiative](#) to increase educational attainment. The final day of our campaign falls on international #Giving Tuesday, the beginning of the charitable season around the world, [a day the UNM Foundation celebrates as #LobosGiveDay](#). For more information, please visit unmfund.org/LobosGiveDay.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and let's go, Lobos!

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President

