



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 1, 2021

Good afternoon, Lobos –

Since 1986, November has been designated as National American Indian Heritage Month, a time for our nation to celebrate and recognize the significant contributions the original inhabitants of America have had on the United States. At The University of New Mexico, we honor our deep American Indian roots all year round, as a foundational part of our distinctive university culture and proud heritage as Lobos. [We gratefully acknowledge and recognize our history.](#)

UNM is proud to be home to faculty, staff, and students from our state's 23 tribal nations, including 19 Pueblos, 3 Apache Tribes and the Navajo Nation in New Mexico—as well as many from tribes beyond the borders of our state. It is a point of pride that we work hard to recruit Native students to provide them with the support needed to ensure they arrive here as enthusiastic students and leave as graduates and Lobo alumni.

We are very fortunate to have the leadership of Pamela Agoyo and her team at UNM's [American Indian Student Services \(AISS\)](#). For four decades, AISS has been working hard to recruit and retain Native American students, ably serving as UNM's liaison with students, tribal and community colleges, tribal governments, and other tribal education programs. It is a testament to their hard work that [we conferred 432 degrees to American Indian students for the 2020-2021 academic year.](#) I am very proud of all that AISS does, and even prouder of all that continues to be accomplished by our Native students.

I hope you'll take part in some of the educational, social, cultural, and artistic [programming scheduled this month](#) to engage the university community in learning more about the Indigenous experience and perspective. I also encourage you to take some time to read any of the countless books on the [American Indian experience, or by Native American authors, available from University of New Mexico Press.](#)

We celebrate this part of our heritage as Lobos and honor the extraordinary American Indians that are a vital and vibrant part of our community, our state, and our nation.

UNM Gallup Hosts 2021 Diversity Summit

As we begin to navigate a post-COVID society, it is vital we determine how we can work together to address societal harms that have been amplified by the pandemic. In a state as diverse as ours, it is critical for educators to learn, for example, how to recognize and interrupt racial and intersectional microaggressions, and have a greater understanding of the impact of stereotypes, trauma, and implicit bias on the individual and society. This Thursday and Friday, UNM Gallup is [hosting the 2021 Diversity Summit](#) to discuss and explore how we practice diversity in our community, how it connects with community activism, and how it reflects itself in culture. [Register today](#)—and get ready to be inspired as you connect and discuss practical ways to serve an increasingly diverse student population.

UNM Designated as Fulbright HSI Leader

Last week, UNM was [designated as a Fulbright Hispanic Serving Institution \(HSI\) Leader](#) by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs -- one of only 35 institutions in the nation to receive this honor. This designation recognizes HSIs that have demonstrated noteworthy engagement with Fulbright exchange participants during the 2019-2021 academic years and have promoted Fulbright Program opportunities on campus. I'm truly honored that we've been so recognized, and I'm very proud of the Fulbright scholars and researchers we regularly encourage and support at UNM. As an HSI, I am particularly pleased we can share our unique Lobo culture and experiences with universities and communities around the globe.

Registration Begins November 8

Although at times it feels as if the Fall 2021 semester has hardly begun, the colder temperatures (at least in the mornings!) and the beginning of November mean that it's already [time to get ready to register for Spring 2022](#). Registration begins at 7 a.m. on Monday, November 8, and continues through Friday, November 12. The Spring 2022 class schedule is [available online](#), and students can use the new [UNM College Scheduler tool](#) to help build a conflict-free Spring schedule. Start preparing now for a fantastic Spring semester, Lobos.

Celebrate Homecoming Week 2021

I hope everyone is off to a safe, entertaining, and enjoyable start to Homecoming Week 2021! It was great to see so many of you at University House this afternoon for s'mores and cider, and there are still [plenty of great events happening this week](#). After spending much of the last 19 months mostly apart, let's make Homecoming 2021 a joyous return to being together again and celebrating our shared culture and experiences as Lobos. Make it a loud, proud, and memorable one!

As always, please remember that masks are required at all times at all indoor UNM facilities—[yes, that includes indoor athletic facilities like The Pit](#)—unless actively eating or drinking, or in an office alone. Please also continue good public health practices (handwashing; staying home when ill; physical distancing, when possible; mask-wearing, etc.) across all our campuses. Thank you, as always, for keeping yourself and our pack safe. Your care and attention to public health helps ensure we can continue to hold events in person.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President