



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



February 7, 2022

Dear Lobos --

Last week, I provided you with an update of our progress on [UNM 2040: Opportunity Defined, our multi-year plan to shape the future of The University of New Mexico](#). As I mentioned then, we've reached that critical phase in the project when we get to hear your ideas and aspirations for Lobo life in the year 2040. As this part of the process, we have opened our new IdeaScale-powered [UNM innovation management platform](#) as a collaborative space for gathering not only your feedback, but also for engaging with the entire UNM community.

I've been incredibly encouraged by the feedback, suggestions, and ideas we've seen from you so far, which is why I've asked that the initial February 7 deadline for comments be extended to Friday, February 18. The insights we've already received are helping us fine-tune our vision framework and continually revise our plan to be more reflective of the shared concerns of the Lobo community.

If we haven't heard from you already, I encourage all UNM students, faculty, and staff to take a moment to log into our [IdeaScale platform](#)--there's no need to create an account; you simply use your current UNM login credentials—and join the conversation. As you explore the page, you may be inspired to provide us with ideas of your own about the future of UNM--or you can upvote or comment on the ideas of others. Either way, you'll be providing us with transparent, real-time feedback on the process. If you have questions or want more information, [there will be an informational Zoom session on Thursday, February 10, at noon](#). You can also [provide feedback through the UNM 2040: Opportunity Defined webpage](#).

Our next step will involve the implementation of *UNM 2040*, where we will work toward the execution of the vision plan, goals, and objectives. It's vital that the plan truly reflects the priorities, dreams, and aspirations of the UNM community, which is why your input is so important to this process. You have until February 18 to [log in](#), look around, and join the conversation—and I can't wait to hear from you.

Standing with HBCUs and Reflecting on Diversity

During this first week of Black History Month, more than 20 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) around the United States were targeted with bomb threats—a too frequent reminder that we are all impacted as a society by hate and intolerance. America's universities must fight racism through racial justice and equity, access to education, knowing our history, and the celebration of all curious minds. We at The University of New Mexico stand with the [Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus leadership](#), who stated, "Learning is one of the most noble and most human pursuits, and schools are sacred places that should always be free from terror."

On a related note, I want to invite the entire Lobo community to attend [the latest of our Diversity Dialogues, sponsored by the UNM Division for Equity and Inclusion](#), to reflect on the history of our nation and its

relationship with the Black community. The upcoming dialogue will showcase the work *Dismantling Constructs of Whiteness in Higher Educational Narratives of Resistance from the Academy*, in a panel discussion featuring editors Dr. Margie Montañez and Dr. Teresa Y. Neely, and contributors Dr. Eric Castillo, Nikhat Ghouse, and Brandi Wells-Stone, and moderated by Vice President for Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Assata Zerai. [This Diversity Dialogue will be held virtually](#) on Wednesday, February 9, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Cheering on Our Lobo Olympian

As you're watching this year's Winter Olympics, keep an eye out for [Jessica Yeaton, a cross country skier competing for the Australian team](#), and a student in [UNM HSC's Division of Physical Therapy program](#). Yeaton will be competing in five events and placed 31st in the 15K skiathlon over the weekend. Her next event will be the skate sprint on Tuesday, so tune in and cheer on this amazing Lobo. Go Jessica!

Associate Provost Honored with Major Literature Prize

Congratulations to Dr. Pamela Cheek, Associate Provost for Student Success and a professor of French and comparative literature, who was recently [awarded the 2022 Laura Shannon Prize in Contemporary European Studies](#) by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies at the University of Notre Dame for her book [Heroines and Local Girls: The Transnational Emergence of Women's Writing in the Long Eighteenth Century](#). This prestigious award is presented to a work that transcends a focus on any one country, state, or people to stimulate new ways of thinking about contemporary Europe as a whole. In awarding the prize, the jury hailed Dr. Cheek's work as "geographically and intellectually ambitious" and an "indispensable reference point for writers and readers interested in reception politics, literary history and women's writing." Congratulations on a well-deserved honor, Dr. Cheek – you've made Lobos everywhere proud.

UNM Receives NASA Early-Stage Innovation Research Award

As New Mexico's only R1 institution, our Lobo researchers are always challenging themselves to solve some of the biggest problems on Earth – and beyond. I'm delighted that [NASA recently selected the Institute for Space and Nuclear Power Studies at The University of New Mexico to receive its Early Stage Innovation 2021 research award](#). This three-year, \$650,000 award will be used to develop advanced lightweight heat-rejection radiators for future space nuclear power and propulsion systems – paving the way for future missions to Mars and the moon. Congratulations to our team from the Department of Nuclear Engineering for this award and for their remarkable work.

Alumni Association Seeking Nominees

By proudly giving back to their communities and constantly changing the world for the better, our alumni truly embody the very best of the Lobo spirit, and our Alumni Association works hard to make sure their accomplishments are recognized and honored. This year, the UNM Alumni Association is seeking nominations for its eight prestigious annual awards—among the highest honors awarded by UNM. I encourage you to [read more about these awards and consider nominating someone who inspires you and defines our community](#). The deadline is Tuesday, March 1, so get those nominations in as soon as you can. Winners will be honored at a reception and awards dinner on Wednesday, April 20.

As always, please remember that The University of New Mexico requires all students, faculty, and staff to be fully vaccinated, which includes making sure you've received your booster shot, when eligible. Once you have your shot, let us know by reporting it on the [Lobo Vaccine Verification portal](#). UNM also requires all students, staff, and faculty to [wear three-ply \(or better\) medical/health procedure masks](#). Complimentary masks are presently available for students in a variety of locations, including Johnson Recreation Center, the SUB, and high-traffic classroom buildings like Mitchell, Dane Smith, and Woodward Halls, and the Collaborative Teaching and Learning Building (CTLB). Thank you for your continued diligence and care for the entire Lobo community.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President