



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 14, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos--

Welcome to Spring Break 2022! With most of our students away, our campuses are certain to be quieter this week, so I hope you'll find time to catch up with some of the items on your to-do list, whether it's cleaning out your inbox at work or doing some Spring cleaning at home. This is also a great time to explore some of New Mexico's [15 National Parks, monuments, trails, or historic sites](#), or any of [our 35 State Parks](#). Wherever you go, I hope you enjoy some time away—and if you're on campus, here's to a productive week. Also, please note that when we return to campus from Spring Break on Monday, March 21, [UNM's masking requirement will have been lifted](#), with some exceptions, for UNM campus facilities located in counties that are considered [low- or medium-COVID-19 community levels by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). I'll have more details in next week's message, but after nearly two years, I know this is welcome news. It is your diligence and care that has kept our community safe and made this change in our health protocols possible. As always, thank you for taking care of yourselves and our pack.

SRMC Chief Medical Officer Renders Aid in Ukraine

As I mentioned in my [recent State of the University](#) remarks, “How can I help?” has become the rallying cry of the Lobo community over the last two years--and as the world continues to watch in shock as events unfold in Ukraine, Lobos continue to rise to the occasion. I am inspired by Lobo physician Matthew Wilks, chief medical officer and chief quality officer at Sandoval Regional Medical Center in Rio Rancho, who recently [crossed into Ukraine to establish aid stations staffed by volunteer health providers](#). Wilks, an associate professor in the UNM Department of Emergency Medicine who has spent 10 years at SRMC, belongs to Team Rubicon, an international disaster relief organization, and has previously provided aid in Haiti and Mozambique following national disasters in those regions. The entire Lobo community is also inspired by your courage, and I know the people of Ukraine are grateful for your care.

Lobo Faculty Celebrated, Honored

Our Lobo faculty continue to earn honors and acclaim, and to be recognized for excellence in their fields. It's a pleasure to congratulate **Trilce Estrada**, an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science, who received a [2022 Women in Technology Award from the New Mexico Technology Council](#), which recognizes outstanding women in New Mexico's STEM fields for their industry and community contributions. Professor Estrada is the latest award winner to come from our School of Engineering, and I'm proud to see our faculty honored in this way.

Congratulations as well to the [three recipients of the UNM College of Arts and Sciences prestigious Teaching Excellence Awards](#), presented for outstanding contributions to the College's instructional mission. This year's honorees are **Cindy Gevarter**, assistant professor in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences,

Colin Olson, senior lecturer III in the Department of Sociology, and **Samuel Torres**, Ph.D. student and teaching assistant in the Department of Sociology.

I am also pleased to note that **Eric Denkers**, [professor of Biology and primary investigator of the Denkers Lab at UNM's Center for Evolutionary and Theoretical Immunology](#), and **Michelle Ozbun**, [the Maralyn S. Budke Endowed Professor in Viral Oncology at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center and professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology](#), have been elected as Fellows of the American Academy of Microbiology, while **Heather Himmelberger**, director of UNM's Southwest Environmental Finance Center, was recently [recognized by the American Water Works Association Rocky Mountain Section](#). Congratulations to our impressive Lobo faculty for their continued tradition of excellence.

ASM Hosting Regional Innovation Event

As one of the primary drivers of the regional economy, UNM's Anderson School of Management (ASM) regularly brings together key decision-makers to help facilitate the collaborations needed to increase competitiveness and to showcase the role that universities can play in economic development. As part of its ongoing Regional Innovation Series, [ASM will be hosting a forum on "Collaboration for a Clean Energy Economy," with the Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance \(AREA\) on Thursday, March 17, 10-11:30 a.m.](#) The program will include presentations from AREA and the UNM Center for Social Policy, followed by an expert panel featuring representatives from the Office of U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich, the Renewable Energy Industry Association (REIA); EPSCoR and UNM School of Engineering, and Array Technologies.

PBS CEO Presented with Pillar of Public Service Award

One of the major awards from America's Public Television Stations (APTS) was recently [presented to Franz Joachim, general manager and chief executive officer of New Mexico PBS](#), who was honored with the APTS Pillar of Public Service Award, given to extraordinary leaders and innovators. Joachim was honored for his pioneering work in deploying datacasting technology to enhance remote learning and public safety communications in the State. Under his leadership, New Mexico PBS has made it possible for students with no or limited Internet access to receive educational resources at home, using a slice of the state public television network's broadcast spectrum to deliver material through the airwaves to devices in the home. Congratulations, Franz, and my thanks for coming up with such an innovative way to ensure we can reach some of the toughest-to-serve areas of our state.

Have a great Spring Break, and let's go, Lobos!

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President