



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 28, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

Sometimes, the selflessness and generosity of others can amaze and excite.

Case in point: last week, I was privileged to help celebrate the largest cash gift ever given to the UNM School of Engineering – as well as the 12th largest cash gift in the history of our institution – as we celebrated a [\\$5 million pledge from Lobo alumnus Doug Campbell to the Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering](#). This generous donation will be put to immediate good use to support our students, faculty, programs, and facilities, and will have a transformative impact not only on the department, but the entire School of Engineering and The University of New Mexico.

What makes this gift even more special, however, is that Campbell, CEO of the electric vehicle battery development company Solid Power, has chosen to make this donation to honor a fellow Lobo who was formative in his education and overall life experience—an engineering professor who made a direct impact on Doug and who, to this day, he credits for much of his success in his career and life.

That life-changing engineering professor is former UNM President Gerald May, a genuine Lobo legend and a life-long champion for students and faculty. On March 22, the UNM Board of Regents formally renamed the department in his honor, making it the first endowed department in UNM's history. Moving forward, The Gerald May Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering will be an ongoing example of the values that we at The University of New Mexico hold dear: excellence in academics, generosity of spirit, and a boundless optimism for the future of our university.

On behalf of the entire Lobo community, we are so grateful to Doug Campbell for this amazing and exciting gift. Thank you.

2023 Budget Increases Employee Compensation

Among the foundational goals articulated in [UNM 2040, our multi-year planning to shape the future of our university](#), are ongoing commitments to inclusive excellence and long-term sustainability. As we continually strive to make UNM an exceptional place to work, learn, and grow, we know that the cultivation, recruitment, and retention of faculty and staff are paramount to our mission. As we approach the launch of UNM 2040, we are already working to ensure the [ambitious goals and ideals we've expressed in our vision framework](#) are within reach. As part of the 2023 budget planning process, the UNM Board of Regents recently approved our recommended budget parameters and compensation plan, in which we requested a significant salary increase for eligible employees. This will be implemented in two steps: effective April 1, eligible employees will receive a 3% base salary increase; and effective July 1, departments will provide additional salary increases averaging 4% to eligible employees. Unionized employees will receive increases based upon negotiations with their respective

unions. I am delighted we will be able to provide this much needed, and well-deserved, increase.

Government Relations Update

With the conclusion of the 2022 State Legislative session—and the end of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's signing period – we have a much [clearer picture of UNM's outcomes](#). As Nathan Bush, UNM's Chief Government Relations Officer reported last week:

. . . several issues remain unsettled in the eyes of legislators and the Governor. Legislators have strongly objected to the Governor's [wholesale veto of Senate Bill 48](#), the so-called “Junior” appropriations bill. That bill would have included \$3.7 million for UNM spread over 30 projects and programs. . . . For her part, the Governor has expressed discontent with several legislative outcomes, including her criticisms related to the legislative construction of SB48.

. . . the Legislature and Governor came to an agreement on the timing and general parameters for a special session that will convene on April 5, with legislators aiming to wrap up work by April 6. Early signals from the Executive and Legislative branches are that SB48, alongside various means of returning taxpayer dollars to constituents intended to offset inflationary pressures on consumers, will be front-and-center for this special session.

The UNM Office of Government and Community Relations has already begun conducting outreach to SB48 constituents to shore up rationale and continued justification for UNM projects that were funded by this legislative vehicle. We will leverage this information to tout the merits of each and every line item that was vetoed in SB48. If you have any questions, please contact [our Government Relations team](#).

My continued thanks to Nathan Bush and his team in UNM's Office of Government and Community Relations, who helped ensure our programs remained a priority in Santa Fe. Look for continued updates as the special session convenes in early April.

Learn to Identify and Prevent Phishing Scams

It sounds like I'm not the only one checking my inbox only to find suspicious e-mails asking me for personal information or to do something unusual like pick up gift cards for a colleague. Yes, sometimes these messages come in disguise, looking as if they've been sent by colleagues and coworkers. But please be alert—91 percent of all cyber-attacks begin with these so-called phishing e-mails, which attempt to get your personal information and other data that can be used to access UNM's infrastructure.

To help educate our students, faculty, and staff on phishing, I have asked the UNM Information Security & Privacy Office to implement [phishing awareness training, along with an improved approach for reporting](#) suspect messages and spam. Beginning April 18, all LoboMail users will be sent a simulated phishing message once per quarter. Users who are successfully phished will be prompted to complete targeted training that provides useful information on how to identify phishing messages. There will also be a new “Report Message” function built into LoboMail that will permit users to immediately flag and report suspicious messages.

For more information on phishing, see [FastInfo 7930](#), and for more information on how to report a suspicious message, please see [FastInfo 7931](#). Your attention helps keep all our information safe and keeps our campus running smoothly.

UNM Earns Military Friendly Designation

As an institution that prides itself on supporting veterans and military families, I am delighted that [The University of New Mexico has once again earned a Military Friendly Top Ten School designation, ranking 8th among R1 institutions](#). The designation demonstrates UNM's commitment to its military-affiliated population, and salutes the work done by the [UNM Veteran and Military Resource Center \(VMRC\)](#) to provide services for veterans, active military and their families. Our high rank also indicates UNM is a desired destination for military-affiliated students within New Mexico and throughout the country. As someone who grew up in a military family, I am honored so many of our veterans choose to call UNM home.

Fulbright Program Recognizes UNM Professors as Leaders in their Fields

Congratulations to two members of our UNM faculty who have recently been recognized through the prestigious [Fulbright Program](#). Tanya Ivanova-Sullivan, associate professor in the [UNM Department of Languages Cultures & Literatures](#), was selected as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar for 2022-2023. She will be [conducting a psycholinguistic study with native speakers and second-language learners](#) of Bulgarian at Sofia University in Bulgaria this Fall. John Barnes, professor of sports administration in the [UNM Department of Health, Exercise and Sports Sciences](#), will [represent UNM at the Hungarian University of Physical Education and Sports Science next year on a Fulbright grant award](#), researching and teaching on the topic of leadership in college sports. These scholars truly represent Lobo excellence in their research and teaching, and the knowledge they will bring back from their respective Fulbright experiences will only make their impact here at UNM even stronger.

This Wednesday, Thank a Doctor!

This Wednesday, March 30, is National Doctor's Day, created in 1933 to recognize the work of physicians and the communities in which they live and work. We are fortunate to have so many exceptional healthcare professionals within our [UNM Health System](#)—and as the [state's only teaching hospital](#), we're producing and training more of them each day. For our doctors, nurses, and health professionals who continue to provide extraordinary health care in communities across our state, we thank you for your skills, your service, and your compassion.

Project ECHO Program Supports Behavioral Health Professionals

Project ECHO, our globally recognized model program for bringing life-saving knowledge to communities around the planet, is launching a [new program to support behavioral health professionals](#), who continue to help their patients deal with unprecedented stress, anxiety, and other challenges. The first session was this afternoon, and subsequent sessions will continue every second and fourth Monday. Psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, therapists, and other behavioral and mental health care workers are welcome. This program is free of cost to participants, and mental health practitioners can register online for [Resilience Rounds](#) and [Resilience Workgroups](#).

UNM Gives Campaign Raises Over \$500,000

Our most recent [UNM Gives Campaign](#), which supports the [United Way of Central New Mexico](#), was an enormous success, raising \$516,676 that can be used to help strengthen families, provide education, and support survivors across our state. As always, Lobo faculty and staff were incredibly generous—and as promised, Dr. Doug Ziedonis, Executive Vice President for the UNM Health Sciences Center, and I personally [delivered pizzas](#),

[provided by our friends at Saggios, to the offices with the most notable rates of giving.](#) This year's winning offices were the Department of Internal Medicine at UNM HSC, and a tie between the offices of the President and the Provost. I am so proud of the entire Lobo community for your compassion and generosity. Thank you for making this campaign a resounding success.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes

President