

Campus Safety is a Community Priority

Dear fellow Lobos,

Campus safety will always be a top priority of my administration, but it is also a partnership that involves our entire community. As an urban campus, we are continually exploring new and better ways to create the most welcoming, secure and positive environment possible for our community to live, learn, work and visit.

UNM Campus Safety Week coincides with Campus Safety Awareness Month, held annually in September as a way to help ensure campus safety nationwide. Next week, Sept. 4 - 8, [Campus Safety Week will feature](#) more than a dozen events under the theme “Bystander Intervention,” starting with “Train the Trainer,” a bystander training session by author and social justice advocate Alan Berkowitz on Sept. 5 in SUB Lobo A and B. The week will also include the annual campus safety walk, bicycle registration and coffee/tea with a cop. I encourage everyone on the campus to participate in these activities.

New this year, we are partnering with the Albuquerque Police Department to host an etching event, which is an opportunity for you to have your car’s VIN number etched onto your window. Police say this discourages thieves from taking your vehicle. The event is from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Sept. 8 in R-Lot, at Girard and Central.

Students will soon be taking part in our [annual, mandatory, online sexual assault prevention training](#). All Lobos in a degree-seeking program must complete [“Think About It.”](#) by Campus Clarity—a program designed to reduce risky student behaviors and prevent sexual assaults on campus. Students will receive an email from the [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#) detailing the training and providing a link to the instruction tool. All students are urged to take the one-hour training as soon as possible. Last year, we were able to reach over 25,000 students with the in-person sexual assault prevention program, “The Grey Area.” In addition, UNM currently requires all faculty, staff, and student employees to take an online training course, “Intersections: Preventing Discrimination and Harassment,” on an annual basis. The training module is currently available on UNM’s Learning Central and I encourage everyone to take this training well before the December 1, 2018 deadline.

The UNM Police Department (UNMPD) has also been hard at work over the last 8 months developing new ways of connecting with the campus community. Their #UNMStrongerTogether initiative launched last week and has already gained a following on social media. UNMPD joined both Twitter ([@UNMPD](#)) and Instagram ([unm_pd](#)) and worked with campus partners to create a video, digital signs and other material to increase awareness of the importance of community policing. Officers will also disperse safety tips and suggestions every month on their new [Safety Topic Of the Month Page \(S.T.O.M.P.\)](#).

To bolster the campus safety initiative announced earlier this year, I have already committed funding to go towards new bikes for the UNM Police Department (UNMPD), security cameras for our parking lots and a new safety director position within UNMPD. I have also committed funding to support Clery Compliance Coordinator Rob Burford, who along with the campus safety committee, has done an excellent job of planning our third annual Campus Safety Week 2018. Earlier this year, our students led an effort at the State Legislature that resulted in nearly \$126,000 in capital outlay funds for the new lights around various parts of campus. With this momentum, it is more important than ever that the campus community get and stay involved.

With all of us working together, I believe we can be successful in our pursuit of a safer campus. Many thanks to all of you for helping to build an alert and prepared campus community. I encourage the whole community to take part in Campus Safety Week, so we can all be #UNMStrongerTogether.

Garnett S. Stokes
UNM President