

## ALL UNIVERSITY MESSAGE

Good morning,

Knowing that UNM Health Sciences impacts every New Mexican, and reaches far beyond our state in terms of research and scholarly impact, I am very pleased to announce that Douglas Ziedonis, MD, MPH, has accepted our offer to become [The University of New Mexico's new executive vice president for health sciences & CEO of the UNM Health System](#) (link to newsroom story), and a critical member of my leadership team. Dr. Ziedonis, who is currently the associate vice chancellor for health sciences at the University of California San Diego, will join the UNM community on December 1, 2020.

Dr. Ziedonis' appointment reflects our institutional dedication to finding a leader who will deliver on UNM's commitment to offering excellence across all aspects of education, research and clinical care, and the HSC's mission to improve health outcomes for all New Mexicans. He comes to UNM with a keen appreciation for the complexities of running the state's only academic medical center, including the current stressors derived from the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic. He has a breadth of experience and leadership roles at academic institutions as varied as UCSD, UCLA, UMass, Yale, and Rutgers, and extensive work with diverse and Indigenous communities. Additionally, his own medical and public health background and accomplishments have targeted addressing health disparities – including issues such as homelessness, mental illness and addiction – and being a champion for diversity.

Throughout his distinguished 35-year career, Dr. Ziedonis has demonstrated a collaborative and visionary leadership style that builds upon existing partnerships as well as forging open, effective and lasting ones, both internally and externally. What stood out to me during his interactions with our community is his inspiring focus on how we can achieve success through teamwork, interdisciplinary activities and collaborations, strategic alignment, a welcoming climate, and a focus on access and excellence.

I am extremely grateful to Provost James Holloway for leading the search committee, and to each member of the committee for the energy, insights, and thoughtfulness they brought to the process. The feedback received from the diverse collection of students, faculty, staff, and broader community who participated in the search process was very important in supporting this decision. I want to also thank Dr. Michael Richards for his service as Interim EVP and for his expertise, professionalism and leadership throughout this transition. I will be facilitating Dr. Ziedonis' onboarding through my office, ensuring that he is connected with the many talented individuals at UNM and across New Mexico that share our institutional vision for inclusive excellence.



*October 5, 2020*

I have no doubt that Dr. Ziedonis will bring the energy and professional expertise to UNM that we are expecting, along with a deep respect for our culture, mission and values, and a sense of our strategic needs. This is an exciting time of both transformation and growth for UNM, and I am incredibly excited about the future of UNM Health Sciences and the future of the University for New Mexico. Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Dr. Ziedonis to the Lobo community.

Kind regards,

Garnett S. Stokes  
President

