



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



*August 20, 2018*

Good morning.

On behalf of the entire University of New Mexico, welcome back, Lobos! The beginning of the fall semester is one of my favorite times, and especially so this year because this will be my first full semester at UNM as your president. It is my pleasure to welcome new and returning students, faculty and staff to UNM.

## **Welcoming Our Newest Lobos**

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of offering a few words to over 1,000 of our newest Lobos, the class of 2022, and their families at Freshman Convocation. This annual tradition symbolizes the beginning of their educational experience. Freshmen bring new energy, new hopes and new interests to our campus. I encouraged them to live their best Lobo life by looking to The University of New Mexico as their campus, their lab, their canvas and their home. Please join me in helping our newest Lobos feel welcome and supported in the UNM community!

This week also offers students a number of exciting activities and opportunities to get to know UNM. I encourage all of our Lobos to take advantage of getting to know your campus and what it has to offer during [UNM Welcome Back Days](#).

## **A Vibrant Intellectual Environment**

Students aren't the only fresh faces on campus. Last Monday, I welcomed more than 75 of UNM's new faculty at a reception at University House. Their caliber and diversity, coupled with their energy and enthusiasm, are reflective of the vital academic climate we have here at UNM. We are all part of a learning community, much of which is derived of learning from each other. Our newest professors join a world-class faculty at UNM, bringing a wealth of talent and expertise that will enhance the University's teaching, learning, discovery and service.

## **Making Course Materials Accessible and Affordable**

Course materials – textbooks, general reading titles, adaptive learning software, etc. – are often essential for the successful completion of courses. They can also be quite costly, and many students attending UNM face real economic challenges in paying for course materials. I am proud to say that we have saved students \$4.2 million over the past academic year, through our [Inclusive Access program](#), and could not have done so without the support of, and collaboration with, our faculty. I encourage both students and faculty to continue this practice to make earning a UNM degree more affordable.

## **Weekly Perspective Refresh**

Last spring, University Communication & Marketing conducted a survey, which included asking the campus community about their perceptions of this weekly Monday message. I was particularly pleased to see that

student response was the highest, in terms of demographics. While many people felt the message was positive and informative, a few changes have been made as a result of your input. The message will now appear in a more visually enhanced format, and we will be including broader content with more links. And I will do my best to keep it concise! I will also continue to create in-person opportunities to engage on campus and will share information using social media. Thanks again to all who took the time to participate.

Have a great first week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes

President

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