



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



October 22, 2018

Good afternoon.

## Empowering Our STATE of Minds

Research, innovation and collaboration are part of our institutional DNA. Increasingly, our peer-institutions are tapping into their research power to effect meaningful change for their communities - supporting policies and advocating investments that will revolutionize cities, states and the world. As our state's leading research institution, and the University for New Mexico, we will soon be contributing to these advancements through the pursuit of our own institutional Grand Challenges. The UNM Grand Challenge Initiative (GCI) is an opportunity to broaden our student and faculty perspectives and better serve New Mexico by providing opportunities to collaborate through interdisciplinary research and problem solving. We will launch this effort on Nov. 14 at 9 a.m. in SUB Ballroom C, with an introduction to our Grand Challenges Initiative, including facilitated discussion to determine broad areas of inquiry. I encourage anyone who is interested in taking part to attend the launch and to bring with them ideas for how UNM can continue generating new knowledge and understanding for the social good.

## #DVAM Week of Action

According to the National Coalition of Domestic Violence, "women between the ages of 18-24 are most commonly abused by an intimate partner." Open discussion and awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault is an actionable step towards providing a safer environment for our students, and the entire campus community. October is [National Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#) (DVAM), and I stand with the LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, Women's Resource Center, LGBTQ Resource Center and other on-campus resources to empower each of you to #ProtectThePack. LoboRESPECT is encouraging everyone to wear purple on Thursday, Oct. 25 to honor victims and support survivors of domestic violence and to post your support to social media using [#PurpleThursday](#). I'm proud our campus is supporting this initiative. In addition, please know that advocates are always available on-campus at the [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#), the [Women's Resource Center](#) and [LGBTQ Resource Center](#).

## Be A Part of Shaping Future Leadership

UNM is facing great challenges in a number of areas and selecting leaders to advance our academic enterprise, improve diversity, and act with courage and integrity is more important than ever. Tomorrow, Oct. 23, the campus community is invited to voice their expectations for the [next UNM Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs](#). On Wednesday, Oct. 24, the search for the [Vice President for Equity and Inclusion](#) will kick-off with listening sessions with various groups on campus. It is important to get feedback from all of our stakeholders as we search for UNM's future leaders.

I would like to personally invite each of you to attend one of the listening sessions being held to hear your perspectives about future leadership at UNM. If you cannot attend in person, please forward your thoughts

to the [committee chairs](#) for each search. With multiple ongoing leadership searches, I will continue updating you through this and other campus-wide communications.

### **Provost search open listening sessions | Tuesday, October 23**

Faculty Open Forum

10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. | Roberts Room, 2nd floor, Scholes Hall (1800 Roma Ave.)

Staff Open Forum

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Roberts Room, 2nd floor, Scholes Hall (1800 Roma Ave.)

Student Open Forum

12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. | Roberts Room, 2nd floor, Scholes Hall (1800 Roma Ave.)

### **VP for DEI search open listening session | Wednesday, October 24**

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Roberts Room, 2nd floor, Scholes Hall (1800 Roma Ave.)

## **Great Managers Build a Better Community**

Creating a high-performing culture at UNM is driven by effective and inspiring leadership. Last week I was pleased to recognize the three staff members [chosen as 2018 Outstanding Supervisors](#). Augustine Aragon, Justin Baca and Roberta Chavez were selected from more than 90 nominations submitted to Staff Council and were chosen for their extensive leadership abilities, supportive and positive attitudes, and dedication to creating collaborative work environments for their employees. At UNM, each of us defines all of us, and these three staff members embody all that our university stands for. The fact that Staff Council received so many submissions speaks to the caliber of staff across campus, and I was pleased to meet those who were nominated for this important award. They set the bar for all of us.

## **Basketball Teams Debut 2018-19 Squads**

It was a big weekend for Lobo Athletics as the men's basketball team debuted this season's squad at the annual Cherry and Silver game Friday night. On Saturday, the women's basketball team held an open scrimmage giving spectators their first glimpse of the squad. Jeff and I look forward to an exciting season and seeing you all at The Pit.

Have a great week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes

President

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