



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 12, 2018

Good afternoon.

As the University for New Mexico, we hold a responsibility to our students and our state to provide the highest quality education and research – empowering our graduates to extend their valuable knowledge and contributions to their communities. The [passing of Bond B for Libraries and Bond D for Higher Education](#) will greatly assist us in continuing to facilitate our mission through modernized labs, classrooms and learning resources. Thank you to the many voters who made their voices heard and supported higher education – not just at UNM, but at institutions across the state.

Also, many thanks to the Department of Biology for hosting my first of many [traveling office hours](#) last week, and to the more than 80 students, staff and faculty who attended and introduced themselves to me, with several sharing their thoughts and ideas for UNM. I look forward to seeing more of you at the next stop, this Wednesday in Mesa Vista Hall, room 1104, from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

## UNM Grand Challenges Launch

As New Mexico's flagship university, there is great value to our promotion of research that is collaborative, innovative and relevant to solving our most vexing societal problems. The UNM Grand Challenges Initiative kicks off this week, where we will begin the process of deciding upon three specific 'challenges' on which to focus our interdisciplinary research efforts. [All are invited](#) to attend the launch on Nov. 14 at 9 a.m. in SUB Ballroom C or view the [livestream](#). Please consider [sharing your big ideas](#) on how UNM can 'empower our STATE of minds' to contribute new knowledge and understanding for the social good.

## UNM Tribal Consultation

After visiting with many of New Mexico's tribal leaders and members over the summer, we decided to convene a Tribal Consultation for discussion of collaborative approaches to meeting the educational needs of American Indian students and their communities. The Consultation was held on campus last Thursday, where I had the pleasure of meeting 19 tribal leaders from around New Mexico. They provided our university leadership with valuable insight into the issues facing their communities. They also brought their suggestions and ideas forward on how we can better partner with them on educational matters and enhance American Indian enrollment and student success. I am committed to having more consistent communication with New Mexico's tribes and anticipate having an action plan for next steps in the next 90 days.

## Enrollment Task Force

The University's declining enrollment is an issue that will impact all areas of our institution and will necessitate strategic input and action from the entire campus. A few weeks ago, an [Enrollment Task Force \(ETF\)](#) was charged with providing recommendations that address current enrollment challenges. [I encourage all Lobos to get involved by providing recommendations](#) and information that will help guide the ETF as it discusses opportunities for short and long-term solutions.

## International Education Week

Each year, our campus hosts hundreds of international scholars from dozens of countries around the world. These students bring cultural exposure, global insight and economic benefits to our community, and across national and institutional borders. This week, we are honoring our global Lobos as [UNM celebrates International Education Week \(IEW\)](#). This is an opportunity to showcase the numerous world cultures, people, and languages that make up our community, stimulate our learning environment, and foster mutual understanding. UNM IEW kicks off today!

## 2018 Hanging of the Greens

The annual [Hanging of the Greens](#) is right around the corner. As our oldest student tradition, it is one I've been eagerly anticipating since my arrival. The entire community is invited to join our UNM family as we ring in the holiday season with biscochitos, hot cocoa and carols...and of course, strolling among over 1,000 luminarias artfully arranged by our student organizations. This year, Hanging of the Greens is on Friday, Nov. 30 at 5:45 p.m. in front of the UNM Bookstore. And, if you bring an unwrapped children's book, you can place it under the tree at Hodgkin Hall to be given to a special little one at UNM Children's Hospital.

## 2018 Mandatory Training Reminder

The Dec. 1 deadline for the 2018 Mandatory Training is rapidly approaching. All UNM employees, including regular, temporary, and on-call faculty and staff, as well as student employees (including graduate students), are required to complete the three, designated institution-wide mandatory training courses. For more information, please visit [mandatory training](#). Information on completion status of the [2018 Mandatory Trainings](#) in your area is available at Learning Central for direct reports and HR Reports for your department and organization.

## Honorary Degree Nominations

If you know of a person who has contributed to the cultural or scientific development of the Southwest, or to the spiritual or material welfare of its people, consider [nominating them as an honorary degree recipient](#). The Office of the Secretary is accepting nominations to be considered for announcement at the Spring 2019 Commencement. A successful candidate must have an exemplary record of academic or public accomplishment in keeping with the University's standards of rigor, quality and significance. Please send nominations to the Office of the Secretary no later than Monday, Dec. 17, 2018.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President

Feel free to reach out to me at [presidentstokes@unm.edu](mailto:presidentstokes@unm.edu).  
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