



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



February 11, 2019

Good afternoon.

Events from UNM's past have resurfaced in the news recently, and I know from conversations across campus that our faculty, staff and students are concerned about the criticism and perception of our university in the public sphere. I can assure you that much of what has been stated about our financial accountability and internal controls has been either directly addressed or greatly improved. It is not enough, however, to merely check boxes. As we continue to shape UNM's leadership team over the next several months, we are also shaping a culture of continuous improvement and self-reflection, collaborative problem solving and proactive response.

When I came here nearly one year ago, I was told time and again about the expanding scope of difficulties facing our campus. I was also told about the many wonderful things you all contribute to making UNM a higher education institution to be proud of and about your aspirations for the future. You told me your thoughts at town halls and traveling office hours; you visited with me at student and other campus events' and we gathered at staff council, faculty senate and alumni board meetings to discuss the most efficient and effective ways to make our campus a better place to work, live and learn.

Together, we have addressed numerous issues – [cutting down on campus crime](#) while [reigniting community relationships](#), [advocating increased scholarship money](#) while [turning ideas into action](#), and [generating groundbreaking research](#) while paving the way for future students who will lead the nation in [economic innovation](#).

I encourage each of you to recognize the measurable and valuable impact you have on our students and our community. We continually engage the public which we serve to advance knowledge, stimulate social and economic progress, and improve our everyday lives. And as the University for New Mexico, we are growing, gathering momentum and making change to better serve our students and state.

UNM Welcomes New Regents

As many of you may have heard, [Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has announced five new regents](#) to serve our university. We welcome back Doug Brown and Sandra Begay, who have previously served on the Board, and offer a warm Lobo welcome to Kimberly Sanchez Rael, Robert Schwartz, and student regent Melissa Henry. I am really looking forward to getting to know our new regents and working together to advance The University of New Mexico. I am grateful to regents Brad Hosmer, Suzanne Quillen, Tom Clifford, Michael Brasher and Garrett Adcock for their support and years of service to our students and citizens of New Mexico.

Advancing Women in STEM

ADVANCE at UNM has sought to increase the representation, diversity and advancement of women and minority faculty in academic science and engineering careers. Through an anonymous gift made in 2015 to support the Women in STEM awards, which includes faculty in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), this transformational program is now looking for the next group of promising researchers for its [2019 Women in STEM awards](#). Last year, [10 scientists were given awards](#), which ranged from \$3,000 to \$15,000. Increasing and supporting the ranks of women in academic science and engineering careers is critical to the success of a diverse and excellent faculty, and I'm looking forward to learning about projects that will benefit from this award.

Graduate Education Day Showcases UNM Students

Today was [Graduate Education Day at the Legislature](#), where eight of our Lobo grad students traveled to the Roundhouse to present their research and scholarship, much of which was conducted in New Mexico. Our graduate programs offer innovative disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs, with UNM being home to more than half of all New Mexico's graduate students and granting 80 percent of doctoral degrees in the state. I had the great fortune to be in Santa Fe today and was able to visit with these exceptional students, who are building new knowledge through research and creating significant scholarly contributions to their areas of study.

Kicking Off a Decade of Lobo Kindness

Today the Office of Student Affairs launched its [10th annual BeKind UNM Week](#), and there are events being held all over campus to promote kindness. The biggest event, the [Kindness Carnival](#), is happening tomorrow, Feb. 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union Building Atrium. Kindness, defined as the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate, is always important, but seems even more crucial now than ever before. Throughout this week and the months to come, think about ways we can be kind to our fellow human beings. Maybe buy a coffee for the person in line behind you or leave a note on a co-workers desk expressing appreciation. No matter how big or small the gesture, let's lift each other's spirits with acts of kindness.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President