



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



February 18, 2019

Good afternoon.

It's hard for me to believe that it is already mid-February and we are half way through this year's legislative session. There is much going on and our government relations team has been hard at work on UNM's legislative priorities. Among our very top concerns are additional money for the university through the formula to offset losses in funding in recent years and compensation for faculty and staff. You can find our [legislative priorities in a brochure here](#).

I enjoyed last week's traveling office hour at Enrollment Management in our Student Support and Services Center on south campus. I talked with many staff members and learned a great deal about their perspectives regarding campus priorities and current events. I look forward to more conversation at this Wednesday's traveling office hour with the [Center for Teaching and Learning in Zimmerman Library](#).

A Shared Vision for Approaching Homelessness

For 130 years, The University of New Mexico has been a place where critical thought, interdisciplinary collaboration and compassion are applied to tackling societal problems, whether for the global good or in our own back yard. Last week, Mayor Tim Keller, Health Sciences Center (HSC) Chancellor Paul Roth and I all [signed a letter of intent](#) signifying our shared commitment to finding [innovative and effective solutions to improve the lives of those experiencing homelessness](#), as well as understanding its root causes. Homelessness has many faces, including veterans, families, those in poverty or struggling with mental illness, and even some of our UNM students. Our commitment to identifying health interventions and providing service learning opportunities is in perfect alignment with UNM's mission and advances our role as a public research university dedicated to being part of the solution to improve our communities.

UNM Grand Challenges: 'Out of the Box'

In order to begin the work of engaging the campus and statewide stakeholders in advancing UNM's [three Grand Challenges](#), [we are holding an 'Out-of-the-box' interactive event](#) on Friday, Feb. 22 in the SUB to address the issues of Sustainable Water Resources, Substance Use Disorders and Successful Aging in our state. You are all [invited](#) to join in the discussion as team leaders for each of the Challenges present their goals, teams and plans, and respond to audience questions. The event will also be [livestreamed](#) on the Grand Challenges website. At the University for New Mexico, we are uniquely positioned to lead the way in addressing each of these large-scale issues, but we will need the power of community engagement to be successful.

Dress Down for LoboTHON

LoboTHON, New Mexico's largest student-run philanthropy, is now in its 6th year of raising funds to benefit the UNM Children's Hospital. This year's goal is to raise \$100,000. In support of the current LoboTHON campaign, Thursday, Feb. 21 will be UNM's first Dress Down Day. I encourage all of us to 'dress down for work, and dress up for the kids,' by [making a donation to LoboTHON](#). Depending on your ability to participate - I know not all of us can commit to a casual dress day - it may mean simply wearing your favorite childhood color. My hope is not only that we'll succeed in raising money, but also in raising awareness for our Children's Hospital and the goal of giving every child a chance to be a Lobo.

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

Garnett S. Stokes

President