



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



*February 25, 2019*

Good afternoon.

It's the start of a busy week, and one that will take me to our nation's capital. I am looking forward to meeting with the New Mexico delegation in Washington D.C. and presenting them with UNM's Federal Legislative Priorities for fiscal year 2020. I plan to see each of our five congressional delegates individually and hopefully generate enthusiastic backing for our priorities, which range from supporting minority entrepreneurial endeavors, to expanding the Health Expansion Rural Offices (HEROs), to enhancing efforts to build underrepresented minority STEM faculty.

While in Washington, I also have the honor of recognizing our delegates at the annual UNM Alumni Association Federal Delegation Appreciation Reception. I'm looking forward to meeting with some of the more than 2,500 UNM alumni in the Washington D.C. greater metro area, in addition to the current [Fred Harris Congressional Interns](#) - James Campbell, Justin Carmona, Daniel Klause, Isis Lopez and Erin Walsh. Our students and alumni are our legacy and I anticipate learning more about the successes our Lobo family brings to the national stage.

## **HLC Public Forums on Criteria Accreditation**

Next week, the Higher Learning Commission will be initiating site visits and will be available at [several public forums](#) on Monday and Tuesday. I encourage you to attend if you are interested in learning more about the criteria the HLC has established to determine whether or not an institution should be accredited. The four criteria are Mission; Integrity; Teaching and Learning; and Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness. Each forum will address a different criterion, and sessions will also be available on Zoom for those who can't join in person.

## **130 Years of Being The University for New Mexico**

The University of New Mexico is celebrating 130 years of bringing quality education to the Land of Enchantment. Everyone is invited to the SUB Atrium this Thursday, Feb. 28, to celebrate Lobo Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and enjoy interactive displays, free shirts and cake before we take the annual birthday photo that hangs in the SUB for the rest of the year. It's a day every Lobo looks forward too and a time to reflect on our history as an institution and our potential for the future. Many thanks on the collaborative efforts of ASUNM Lobo Spirit, the Student Activities Center, University Communication and Marketing, and the UNM Alumni Association for their efforts in making every UNM birthday a celebration worth attending.

## Grand Challenges Move Forward

The Grand Challenges 'Out of the Box' event last Friday was a huge success, with more than 120 students, faculty, staff and community members in attendance. Lead conveners from each of the three chosen challenges - Sustainable Water Resources, Successful Aging and Substance Use Disorders - [presented their goals and plans](#), took questions and solicited feedback. I would like to extend a personal thank you to Kerry Howe, Janice Knoefel, Katie Witkiewitz and Brandi Fink, and their teams for working so diligently the last two weeks to pull these proposals together into tangible goals and plans.

In the coming weeks, the research teams will be working to engage more with community stakeholders to inform and expand their research proposals while also seeking new research grants. We will be forming committees that will ensure these research endeavors both enrich undergraduate and graduate education, and strengthen connections with communities throughout the state. New Mexico's Grand Challenges affect every one of us, from our smallest communities to our largest cities, and it is imperative every person in the state has the opportunity to give input on the outcomes.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President