



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 4, 2019

Good morning.

Friday marked the one-year anniversary of my time here at The University of New Mexico, and I'd like to take a moment to thank all of you for your encouragement and support. I've felt [repeatedly welcomed into the Lobo family](#) from the moment I stepped on campus last year. From meet and greet events with faculty, staff and students, to receptions with city leaders, to listening sessions with alumni, supporters and community members all over the state – Jeff and I have felt so welcomed by the warmth, generosity and kindness of the Land of Enchantment.

What this past year has shown me is that we are a community of changemakers and creative minds, rooted in our history while still keeping an eye toward tomorrow. Together we are doing incredible work every day, for our students, our patients and society. I am so proud to be part of the Lobo family and the University for New Mexico. Andrew Carnegie said that “teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” Over the next year, I am looking forward to continuing our momentum as we build the administrative leadership team, evaluate our strategic priorities and create our common vision.

Graduate and Professional Student Campus Climate Survey

Campus safety continues to top my list of priorities, including curbing incidents of sexual violence. Since spring 2016, [UNM has participated in annual campus climate surveys](#) in order to create awareness and develop prevention programs based on anonymous input directly from our students. This year, two surveys will be going out simultaneously toward the end of March, after Spring Break, and I urge students to take part. The McBEE Survey will go to undergraduate students on main campus, while the National Campus Climate Survey (NCCS) will be sent to graduate and professional students on main and north campuses. The results of these surveys will directly impact how we move forward in addressing sexual violence on UNM's campuses.

Provost Search Progresses with Public Forums

The search is moving forward to find a new Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs. We are close to having a list of finalists, who will be visiting campus in the coming weeks. Although they have not yet been named, we've already [scheduled times and dates for public forums and interviews](#). Please consider attending them and providing input and [feedback on the candidates](#). Forms for feedback will be available for 48 hours after each candidate's visit.

Interim Internal Auditor Announced

As we continue along with several searches within our administrative leadership ranks, I'm happy to announce that Victor Griego was selected through a competitive search to be the interim Internal Audit Director, effective March 1. Victor holds a BBA and MBA degrees, and is a Certified Public Accountant. He has worked in the private sector and has been a member of the UNM Internal Audit team since 2012. In the coming months, I will be evaluating the structure of Internal Audit Department, prior to conducting a national search. My thanks to Victor for his leadership.

Final Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Public Forums

Today we will hold two of three public forums with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) so those in the campus community can [learn more about the accreditation process and its criteria](#). HLC reviewers are seeking to get a sense of the university as a whole, and they understand the value of hearing many voices from throughout our community. The first forum will focus on teaching and learning and the second will focus on mission and integrity. The final forum will be held tomorrow, and will focus on resources, planning and institutional effectiveness. Anyone not able to attend in person can [access the forums via Zoom](#).

Academics Within Borders

Offering UNM's research and intellectual resources and expanding college access in New Mexico are critical to maximizing student and community success, and in turn, increase the strength and vitality of our state. One of the many highlights of this week was an "Academics Within Borders" trip to San Juan College, in Farmington, conceived by Faculty Senate President Pamela Pyle, who also teaches in the Department of Music. This faculty outreach visit brought scholars and researchers from various disciplines at UNM together with their colleagues at San Juan College to explore research opportunities and ways in which to enhance a successful student transfer partnership. I would like to thank the following faculty members who supported this innovative initiative: Christos Christodoulou, Engineering; Craig White, Anderson School of Management; David Hanson, Biology; Helen Wearing, Math & Biology; Jeremy Edwards, Chemistry; Tiffany Lee, Native American Studies; Wendy Greyeyes, Native American Studies; Eric Lau, Music; James Stone, Cinematic Arts. Many thanks, too, to San Juan College President Toni Pendergrass, whom I first met on my statewide listening tour last summer, for her enthusiasm and hospitality. I hope to expand upon this shared understanding that our institutions can do more to partner for the good of New Mexico. And not just as educational cornerstones to success, but as cultural, artistic and social touchpoints within our communities.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President