



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



April 1, 2019

Colleagues, good afternoon.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), and The University of New Mexico is joining with other institutions across the nation to support this year's national theme: "I Ask." Asking for consent is a healthy, normal, and necessary part of life and should be present in our everyday interactions. By practicing consent on all levels, we can do our part to help end sexual violence. SAAM kicks off tomorrow with the National Day of Action, and the LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center is encouraging Lobos to wear the color teal and post their support to social media using #SAAM. We can also support sexual assault awareness on our campus by coming together as a community. There are a variety of [events being hosted this month](#) by several of the centers on campus. As always, please know that advocates are available to support you at the LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center and the LGBTQ Resource Center.

Extraordinary Value of UNM Employees

In our continuously-connected culture, the line between our work and personal lives has become increasingly blurred. Having meaningful time off from the workplace can play a crucial role in maintaining a healthy balance between our careers and the lives we have outside of work. Over the past year I have heard a great deal from our faculty and staff on this subject, as we have consistently done more with less. In an effort to create a supportive work environment and [to express appreciation to our employees](#), I am pleased to announce that I have approved Friday, July 5th as a University holiday, giving our campus community a four-day weekend. UNM employees with clinical or other essential responsibilities should consult with their supervisors on schedules for this day.

I am also happy to share that the University is in the process of drafting a Paid Parental Leave (PPL) policy that will allow eligible staff to be granted up to four weeks of PPL, separate of accrued sick and annual leave, to ensure they have that very important bonding time for births and adoptions. Further details will be provided in the coming weeks, and there will be an opportunity to submit feedback when the policy proposal is posted for public comment. Thank you all for your service to UNM - each and every staff member is a valuable part of the Lobo family and we will continue to seek ways to recognize and reward that dedication.

Executive Searches Moving Forward

The search committees for all three, open executive administrative positions have been making excellent progress this semester. Last week we hosted two candidates for Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs here on campus to meet with faculty, staff, administrators and the UNM community. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to attend the forums or view them online as well as to those who provided valuable feedback via survey.

The search for a Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration is also moving forward. The four finalists announced last week are [Teresa Costantinidis](#) (University of California, San Francisco), [Dan Layzell](#) (Louisiana State University), [Kevin Reynolds](#) (Portland State University) and [Terry Pankratz](#) (University of Texas at Dallas).

Four finalists were also selected for campus visits for the Vice President for Equity and Inclusion position. They are [Nancy López](#) (The University of New Mexico), [Daryl Joji Maeda](#) (University of Colorado Boulder), [Assata Zerai](#) (University of Illinois) and [Christine Zuni Cruz](#) (The University of New Mexico).

The details of each candidate's campus visit are [posted on the Executive Search website](#), and I encourage you to attend or view any of the forums and fill out candidate surveys, providing the search committee and me your assessment of each candidate's potential to succeed as a UNM leader. As we continue moving toward filling these essential administrative roles, it's important that the campus community remain involved in order to ensure the best candidate is chosen to serve UNM.

Time, Talent and Treasure – The Many Ways the Lobos Give

Last week, I touched on the deep roots we have in our community through volunteerism. The Lobo family helped our students raise a [record-breaking \\$103,408 for LoboTHON](#) this year, and [\\$950,133 for United Way of Central New Mexico for the UNM Gives Campaign](#) at the end of last year. But our community commitment doesn't stop at just monetary donations. There are countless opportunities for Lobos to get involved through volunteering their time at [UNM Spring Commencement](#) or at events like the National Senior Games, which are being [held in Albuquerque this summer](#). More than 10,000 athletes from 50 states will be coming to our city to compete at several venues, including UNM. If you have the time, consider giving it to a volunteer effort – it will leave you with a full heart, new friends, and a better community.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President