



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



*April 22, 2019*

Good afternoon.

As a second home to more than 1,500 international students, UNM is a culture of contrast. Lobos from every state in the U.S., and more than 90 countries around the world bring with them new ideas, values, and perspectives that further enrich our campus community. As we saw last week following the devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, the international community has a unique and beautiful way of [coming together in the face of adversity and hardship](#). That humanitarian element in our global society is a characteristic I deeply admire, and I see similar qualities brought to our campus by our international and indigenous students, who remind us that it's our differences that can make us stronger and more collaborative. This week we are honoring those students, their cultures and UNM's diversity at both the annual [International Festival](#), which I had mentioned last week, and the [64th Annual Nizhoni Days Powwow](#). Nizhoni Days is a week-long series of festivities hosted by various departments and Indigenous student organizations on campus, culminating in the Powwow on April 28, hosted by the KIVA Club. The Powwow is an inclusive, free, all-day event, providing our campus community a space to learn about, engage with, and celebrate the traditions and cultures of Indigenous peoples.

## **Each of Us Defines All of Us Through Research**

Building upon UNM's reputation as the state's leading research institution our scholars bring national attention to us as truly being the University for New Mexico. This week, [UNM's 64th Annual Research Lecture will recognize Scott Collins](#), a distinguished professor within the department of biology. His research on natural disturbances and global environmental change on grasslands in North America and South Africa led him to become one of our country's leading ecologists. The award is one of the highest honors we can bestow upon a faculty member, and [his public lecture tomorrow night](#) is sure to be fascinating and thought provoking.

Last week, the American Council of Learned Societies announced [the inaugural recipients of the Mellon/ACLS Scholar & Society Fellowship](#), and Kimberly Gauderman, associate professor of history, was among the 12 chosen from a national pool of peer-reviewed nominations. Her research, titled Practicing Asylum: History and Civic Engagement (A Handbook for Academic Expert Witnesses on Latin American Gender, Sexual, and Gang-based Violence, LGBTQ Status, and Mother/Child Asylum Cases) looks closely at the issue of refugees seeking asylum, something currently deeply impacting New Mexico. My personal congratulations to Professor Gauderman for receiving this outstanding honor and representing our institution so well.

## **Spring Semester Town Hall**

To round out the end of spring semester, I will be holding a campus town hall this week to meet with and listen to students, faculty and staff. It will be held on Friday, April 26 in the Student Union Building, Ballroom A from 12 - 1 p.m. and [will be livestreamed for those who are unable to attend](#). Town halls are an opportunity

for members of the UNM community to share ideas and observations and engage in a University-centered dialogue. Please consider submitting [via email](#) any discussion topics you'd like to propose to help frame the conversation. We will have cookies, popcorn and beverages available for those who attend.

### **Denim Day Raises Awareness During SAAM**

As we approach the end of April and Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), UNM is taking part in national [Denim Day](#), an ongoing effort to increase awareness of sexual assault prevention. It began in 1999, with participants wearing denim in solidarity of victims of sexual assault. Please consider wearing denim on April 24 and sharing your participation on social media using hashtag: #UNMDenimDay.

### **President's Root Beer Float**

As a kick-off to summer and salute to a semester of hard work, Jeff and I are inviting all of our student Lobos to come to our second annual root beer float at University House. It will be held Thursday, April 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. Jeff and I hope to see you there!

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President