



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



May 13, 2019

Good afternoon.

This weekend we welcomed thousands of Lobos into our Alumni family at the 2019 Spring Commencement Ceremony. I saw anticipation, pride and relief throughout the Dreamstyle Arena on Saturday as students and their families celebrated the occasion. Many thanks to the departments across campus who dedicated countless hours to planning and preparing for the ceremony – it was a huge success. For those of you who want a recap, or were unable to join the festivities, we've [preserved the memories for you](#), as well as the [inspirational graduate videos and stories](#) shared during the ceremony.

UNM Star Power

We continue to hear more about our driven faculty and ambitious students being recognized for contributions to their fields. Sophomore Shawna Yellowhair was one of only 61 awardees from a national pool of applicants to be [chosen for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship](#), which will support her during her remaining years here. For the third year in a row, a UNM alum received the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship for photography – Janet Pritchard has [deep roots in our campus community](#), including earning two masters here. Darcy Barron, Sakineh Chabi, Elizabeth Korver-Glenn and Hannah Mattson were selected as recipients of the [2019 Women in STEM awards](#); and their research projects will help shape the future of several competitive federal research grants at UNM in the coming years. Congratulations to the awardees, each of whom encompass our mission of extending research, education and collaboration throughout the state and the country. Additionally, the caliber of UNM research was further enhanced last week as we signed a [Cooperative Research and Development Agreement](#), or [CRADA](#), with Sandia Labs to share knowledge about national security while strengthening science and engineering. We truly are building outcomes through our academic, research and collaborative efforts.

Teaching Excellence Awards

Our classrooms are the gateway to educating our students, and each year our faculty do an outstanding job of bridging numerous gaps to ensure learning. The Center for Teaching Excellence recently [celebrated some of those educators](#) at its annual awards ceremony. They come from all over campus and bring out the best of what learning has to offer by developing creative, innovative, accessible environments in the classroom. I would like to extend a personal congratulations to the honorees.

Taking Time to Say Thanks

Thousands of staff members across campus work tirelessly keeping the day-to-day operations of the university moving smoothly and efficiently. [This week is Staff Appreciation Week](#), so please take time to recognize the staff members in your area and encourage them to take advantage of the numerous events Staff Council has prepared. It is because of the dedication of our employees that our institution continues to be the University for New Mexico. On behalf of UNM, I want you to know that your work and expertise are appreciated and valued not only this week, but year-round.

Calling All Lobos to Volunteer for the National Senior Games

From June 14 - 25, more than 10,000 athletes from across the country will be in Albuquerque to compete in the [2019 National Senior Games](#). Hosting the event has a tremendous impact on our city. It's also a unique opportunity for our campus, with several events being held at UNM venues. Such a large-scale event poses interesting logistical challenges, one of the biggest of which is having enough volunteers. As we appreciate and support the many ways in which our campus engages in community service activities, we are hoping to [encourage 1,000 Lobos to rise to the occasion](#). If you're interested in meeting new people, showcasing the best of Albuquerque, and helping change the lives of thousands of participants, please consider volunteering. For our regular staff employees, supervisors will have to approve the time off, which will be compensated up to five hours in the form of paid leave. [UNM Human Resources has developed a resource page](#), and will provide further updates.

Preserving Indigenous Design

Indigenous culture and Native American heritage run deep in New Mexico. We are home to 23 sovereign nations, who each bring unique history and traditions to our state. The Indigenous Design and Planning Institute (iD+Pi) in the School of Architecture and Planning is supporting Native communities by educating students on how to plan and design in a culturally sensitive way. [Thanks to a generous endowed gift by the Rainosek family](#), iD+Pi will continue doing work that is vital to maintaining our ties with Indigenous culture. I'm eager to see more of the work generated by this unique group of academics.

Minors on Campus Policy

Over the next few months, we will welcome countless future Lobos to UNM as part of the summer programs hosted by departments across campus. According to The University of New Mexico's ["Minors on Campus" policy \(UAP 2205\)](#), every dean or unit/department administrator holding programming for minors this summer must certify their activities are in compliance with the policy. Please do so by providing the name of the initiative and contact person via email to compliance@unm.edu, stating compliance to the policy, by the deadline of Friday, May 17, 2019.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President