



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



May 20, 2019

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” - Harry S. Truman

Good afternoon.

As the product of a military family, Memorial Day holds special significance to me and to my husband Jeff, a retired U.S. Army Colonel. The day is reserved as a time to commemorate those who gave their lives in service to our country. To our families and friends of fallen soldiers, we are deeply indebted to their patriotism, sacrifice and courage.

The University will be closed Monday, May 27 for the holiday, and I will not be sending out a President's Weekly Perspective that day. Please enjoy the extra time away from the office and campus; to those employees who work in critical areas, I appreciate your continued hard work and dedication to our institution and your role in continuing our mission of excellence.

Resources Empowering our State

I visited the UNM Center for Development and Disability (CDD) last week as part of my traveling office hours, which has been an enlightening time to learn about the research and resources we provide as the University for New Mexico. For example, the [CDD has a library](#) full of disability-specific books, DVDs, and technology that benefits the entire state. Not only is it open to the general public, but the staff also mail books and resources across New Mexico. This enables people in rural areas to have access to materials that help spread knowledge about challenges such as autism. Together, we are advancing a state that is understanding, accepting and supportive of people with disabilities.

What Staff Like Best About UNM

Last week was Staff Appreciation Week, and the events hosted by Staff Council were a huge success. Hundreds of staff members and their families took advantage of the museum, movie night, happy hour and lunch. As part of the Staff Appreciation Bingo game, many employees emailed me things they love about their job. I received dozens of emails from staff expressing the best parts of working at UNM: pride in being part of the Lobo family and contributing to the success of UNM; serving our students, patients and state; appreciation of supervisors and co-workers, and the friendships that have been forged; and the great opportunities and benefits we offer. It was encouraging to read so many positive perspectives. Thank you to all who took the time to write, as I'm always eager to [hear thoughts from faculty, staff and students](#).

New Technologies Coming to Campus

Innovation, collaboration and research are cornerstones of our work at UNM; and students, faculty and staff have an exciting opportunity to experience all three at the upcoming Tech Days. The event brings in the

[latest and greatest initiatives and advanced technology](#) for attendees to try, along with presentations and experts. Registration for the conference closes May 31 and [can be completed online](#).

Lobo Cancer Challenge

This fall, we all have the opportunity to help make sure those facing a cancer diagnosis have the research and resources they need. The Lobo Cancer Challenge is happening in September, but you can [form a team, sign up and start training now](#). The community fundraiser benefits the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center, and all the money raised goes to support cancer patients and research, along with community outreach, education and training. There are a variety of race distances and types, or opportunities to volunteer to make sure the challenge goes smoothly. Whether you're competing, cheering on a team or volunteering, this is another way the Lobo family can help those battling cancer.

Have a great week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes

President