



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



June 10, 2019

Good afternoon.

I shared in the excitement last week when Weini Kelati became the first Lobo to win the NCAA 10,000 meter title. This is our first women's event title since 2016 and speaks volumes about the UNM Track and Field teams' training and dedication. In addition, Weini, who is a sophomore, broke school records with her time of 33:10.84. I had the pleasure of meeting her in person not long ago and was incredibly impressed - the success of her coaching, training and conditioning was clearly on display as [she pulled ahead of the competition to cross the finish line.](#) My congratulations to her, Coach Franklin and the UNM Track and Field Program for their great season! Once again this year, the Lobos were the top-ranked team outside of the Power Five.

A Holistic Approach to UNM Safety and Security

Campus safety at The University of New Mexico is an issue on almost everyone's minds as the greater Albuquerque area grapples with crime in general. I recently approved the hiring of five additional UNMPD officers and to date two have already started their service with the other three beginning before the month ends. We have also added approximately 30 surveillance cameras throughout campus in the last six months. We have continued to partner with the city and surrounding neighborhoods to address our shared concerns, including joint patrols with APD.

Some of you may have heard about a study that was commissioned last fall regarding the perimeter security of campus. UNM is continuously evaluating all possible solutions that improve safety for our campus community, yet still being welcoming and part of a proud urban tradition. This study was to inform the administration of scalable options for consideration as part of a holistic approach to how we manage campus safety in the long-term; without comprehensive information we could not responsibly go to our community for input. There are no imminent decisions about perimeter security and any strategy will require consideration of multiple issues before moving forward. I hope that we can all remain open-minded to any ideas or solutions that are put forward in the spirit of critical thought and dialogue.

In recent months, Dean of Students Nasha Torres and UNM Police Department Detective Patricia Young have been aligning existing resources and programs under the umbrella of a Campus Safety Council. The Council includes representation across campus and the community and is developing a framework to identify and address all areas of campus safety, from UNMPD's community policing initiative to behavior intervention and environmental safety design. The Council's guidance and coordination of our many stakeholder voices, from students and their parents to neighbors and local government, will be an important part of our strategic approach to campus safety and security.

As a “city within a city,” UNM is committed to safeguarding members of the campus community as well as the large number of visitors who come to the campus year-round to take advantage of our curricular, cultural, entertainment and community programming. As always, I encourage you to [reach out to my office directly](#) with any questions, concerns or comments.

Successful Aging Call for Funding Proposals

This week the 2019 National Senior Games launch right here in Albuquerque, and if it's not already on your calendar, please consider going out and watching some of the more than 14,000 athletes compete. They are the embodiment of successful aging, which is the focus of one of our Grand Challenges here at UNM. The [UNM Grand Challenge](#) on Successful Aging is now accepting proposals to fund pilot research and community-engaged research development projects, centering on its four overall goals: science and technology; organizational innovation and effectiveness; engaging multigenerational and diverse communities; and economic development. Please consider submitting your ideas to help move this essential collaborative research forward. To apply, [submit the proposal](#) as a single PDF to successfulaging@unm.edu by 5 p.m. on July 22, 2019.

Tech Frontrunners on Campus

The Office of the Chief Information Officer once again did an outstanding job this year bringing leaders of technological innovation to our campus. The [eighth annual Tech Days](#) was a huge success, drawing in more than 700 attendees. The free event is sponsored by UNM IT and its vendor partners, and aims to bring technology concepts, tools and applications to UNM's students, faculty and staff. This year, UNM hosted our colleagues from NMSU, WNMU, CNM, NMT, SFCC, SIPI, Highlands, NNMC and NMMI, with keynotes from Gartner Research and UNM COSMIAC. Attendees were especially excited with the hands-on technology workshops offered by Adobe, helping us to hit the ground running with our new status as an [Adobe Creative Campus](#)! If you weren't able to make it this year, the [presentations will soon be posted online](#).

New Faces Joining the Leadership Team

After an extensive national search, I'm pleased to welcome [Dr. Assata Zerai who will begin on Aug. 1 as UNM's new Vice President for Equity and Inclusion](#). She has a proven track record of outstanding leadership and is a strong advocate for inclusivity, diversity, equity and accessibility. In addition, the UNM Foundation announced [Jeff Todd as its new president and CEO](#). He will start Sept. 1 and brings to the UNM Foundation an impressive resume with more than 30 years of higher education experience, including fundraising, alumni relations, volunteer and board engagement. I am eager to welcome them both this fall and continuing the work of making UNM the University *for* New Mexico.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President