



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



October 14, 2019

Good afternoon.

As an institution committed to education, inquiry and the creation of knowledge, as well as to diversity, equity and inclusion, UNM is a place where we can lean into our differences to face challenges both familiar and unknown. Our university is the ideal environment in which to prepare our students to work together as local and global citizens as they shape and become the next generation of leaders. The same knowledge and skills we teach, share and value – critical thought, curious minds and perseverance in the face of adversity – are the instruments of citizenship that will be necessary to advance us as individuals, communities and nations.

In Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day

We join with many other municipalities and institutions of higher learning in commemorating today as Indigenous Peoples' Day, on which we honor our Native and indigenous students, faculty and staff. As officially [recognized by the University](#), Indigenous Peoples' Day is meant to bring awareness to the struggles of Indigenous People; honor all they bring to UNM through their culture, language, arts, knowledge and values; and recognize the University campuses as being located on their ancestral land. With New Mexico being home to 24 Indian tribes, which represent about 10 percent of our state's overall population, today also recognizes the importance of diversity and UNM's dedication to equity and inclusion.

UNM Faculty to Vote on Unionization

In my time as President, it has been my privilege to meet and get to know many of our faculty and the ways in which their individual talents, accomplishments and contributions serve our students, the citizens of New Mexico and their scholarly and research communities. On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, our UNM faculty will vote yes or no on whether they believe union representation of their interests is necessary. The outcome of the election is determined by a majority of the votes cast as long as 40 percent of the eligible voters in that proposed bargaining unit actually vote. It is important that every member of the two proposed bargaining units be fully [informed](#) and participate in the process - I sincerely urge all eligible faculty to vote. Whether you do so and regardless of how you express your choice, you will be bound by the outcome of the election. This issue is critical to your professional experience at UNM, as well as that of the faculty who will succeed you. The UNM administration will respect the decision of our faculty, as we all continue to advance our mission and support our faculty, students and staff as the University for New Mexico.

2020 Census: Everyone Counts

The U.S. Constitution mandates that our nation count its population every 10 years. Next year, the 2020 Census will require counting an increasingly diverse and growing population – a snapshot of America – and it is imperative that we energize and educate people on the importance of being counted. Information gathered in the census is used to allocate federal funding for roads, hospitals and schools, as well as many

other programs New Mexicans depend on. Data from the Census Bureau shows about 43 percent of New Mexico's population live in "[hard-to-count](#)" areas and include demographics that are consistently overlooked, and one way to reach those populations is by generating interest and inclusion in the census. UNM's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee is [launching its efforts this week](#), and I encourage students, faculty and staff to get involved. The kickoff event this Wednesday, October 16 from 12 - 12:45 p.m. in SUB Ballroom B, will offer information as well as volunteer and paid job opportunities. I look forward to having continued conversations on our campus on not only being counted, but also being counted on.

Engaged in Setting the Agenda

As the state's flagship University, it's part of our mission to create a platform for others to learn, teach and create. [The International Association for Research on Service-Learning & Community Engagement \(IARSLCE\)](#) is doing just that by hosting an [International Research Agenda Setting Forum](#) on UNM's campus on Monday, Oct. 21. This is an opportunity to contribute to the agenda for advancing the study and practice of service-learning and community engagement across the educational spectrum and across national, cultural, and disciplinary contexts. We welcome the chance to support the interests of our colleagues and advance the fields of service-learning and community engagement.

Salsa Showdown Winner

The votes have been tabulated and [the winner of the inaugural Salsa Showdown](#), a tasty competition that kicked off the [2019 UNM Gives Campaign](#), was Shannon Siderius. Shannon received a year of free parking courtesy of UNM Parking & Transportation for her winning recipe. The contest was a great way to generate excitement for our annual UNM Gives campaign. Congratulations to Shannon for her outstanding salsa and to all the participants who entered.

Welcome Home, Lobos!

Soon, we will welcome Lobos from across the city, state, country and world back to campus to celebrate Homecoming 2019! This tradition unites each of us with all of us, blending lasting memories from the past with the creation of new ones. This year's theme is "Paint the Town Cherry" and includes events for students, alumni, faculty and staff during the week of Oct. 21 - Oct. 26. To get things started, I'd like to personally invite you to a s'mores roast at University House. It will be a casual time to connect with one another and exchange plans for which Homecoming events we plan to attend. Please join Jeff and me on Monday, Oct. 21 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the backyard of University House. Be sure to also look through the [full schedule of homecoming events](#) and mark your calendars for the big tailgate and game as the Lobos take on the Hawai'i Rainbow Warriors Saturday, Oct. 26 at 2 p.m.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President