



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



October 21, 2019

Good afternoon.

This week we celebrate Homecoming 2019, a time for all Lobos to recognize the far-reaching cultural, social and intellectual contributions made by UNM students, faculty, staff and alumni. No matter where you are this week, [you can wear your UNM pride](#) by putting on your favorite Lobo red gear and showing your spirit because you belong to the greatest pack in the world. Please post pictures of yourself sporting cherry to social media using the hashtag #WearLoboRed so that the rest of your Lobo family can enjoy seeing just how far the UNM pawprint reaches.

The UNM Alumni Association has events planned throughout the week aimed at reconnecting alums with old friends and networking with new ones. Tonight, to kick off the festivities, my husband Jeff and I would like to invite everyone to a s'more roast at University House on Main Campus starting at 3 p.m. Some of you may find it surprising, but I don't recall ever actually having a s'more and am excited to share the experience with all of you! The [full schedule of Homecoming events](#) includes dinners, mixers, reunions, lectures and fun gatherings across campus and the City of Albuquerque. It all culminates with the Homecoming tailgate Saturday at 11 a.m. at Dreamstyle Stadium before the Lobos take on the Hawai'i Rainbow Warriors at 2 p.m. after which our UNM Volleyball team plays Air Force at 6 p.m.

I hope you will consider joining with your UNM family to celebrate Homecoming as we "[Paint the Town Cherry](#)" and reignite our Lobo spirit for another year!

Leading by Example

I'm consistently amazed at the exceptional leaders I see across campus in UNM student groups, classrooms, departments and programs. Last week, it was my great pleasure to be a speaker at the 2019 Outstanding Supervisor Awards hosted by Staff Council. This year's recipients were Kathy Breckenridge, Jenna Crabb and Jeanne Marquardt – congratulations! There were [more than 40 other supervisors nominated by their colleagues for the award](#) – this number of nominations alone showcases how highly we value strong management and mentorship, and I commend them all for their dedication to UNM.

UNM Faculty Vote in Favor of Union Representation

The University of New Mexico has a world-class faculty and staff that make this a highly respected and competitive research university where discovery and learning are serving New Mexico and beyond. Last week, over two-thirds of our nearly 1,500 eligible [faculty cast ballots](#) in favor of union representation for both adjunct and continuing faculty bargaining units. The UNM administration respects their decision. We remain focused on ensuring that UNM continues as a unified community and are committed to the success of our faculty as valued contributors to UNM's academic mission.

Strengthening Government Relations Leadership

As we continue to prepare for the upcoming 2020 legislative session, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Barbara Damron, who holds faculty appointments in both the UNM College of Nursing and UNM School of Medicine and served as New Mexico's Cabinet Secretary for Higher Education, will be [leading our Office of Government and Community Relations through this fiscal year](#). At a time when we are facing numerous changes and challenges in higher education and health care, Dr. Damron will be a dynamic new addition to our hard-working government relations team. Her distinctive and diverse experiences in both state and federal relations have proven her to be a thoughtful leader who builds understanding around our common issues.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President