



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 4, 2019

Good afternoon.

Throughout November, The University of New Mexico joins the nationwide celebration of native communities during National American Indian Heritage Month. To our state, and to our university, this is especially meaningful because of our deep ties to American Indian history, culture and influence. This month we are honoring all native peoples. In our own state, 24 indigenous communities call New Mexico home, and their experiences, perspectives and academic excellence all contribute to UNM...’s past, present and future.

There are [events and informational programming](#) throughout the month to recognize American Indian tradition and culture and to educate the campus on native language, history and impact. The full calendar of events includes the [Indigenous Language is Life](#) lunch and presentation, the [Indigenous Knowledge Conference](#) and [Diné Culture night](#). In addition, as you travel around New Mexico, the state tourism office has compiled a [list of events and experiences](#). Please consider taking advantage of educational opportunities both on- and off-campus to learn about and appreciate the Indigenous culture that has contributed so much to New Mexico.

## Lobos Celebrate our Heroes

It’s always an honor to recognize the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces and those who serve as First Responders. Our [Heroes Day football game](#) vs. Air Force takes place on Saturday, Nov. 9 and as a ‘thank you,’ all active-duty military personnel, veterans and first responders can [receive discount tickets](#). This year, I’m partnering with the Veterans Resource and Military Center to host a breakfast burrito tailgate for student veterans and their families. It’s from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Stadium West Parking lot, and we will have a special gift for all student veterans. There is no cost, but students must [RSVP](#) in advance. There will be displays by first responders, including a helicopter, fire truck and police vehicles that children and adults can enjoy before the game. During the game, the Lobo Marching band will be joined by the 44th Army National Guard band for a special military/first-responder themed halftime show. I hope to see you there to celebrate our military and first responders, and watch the Lobos take on Air Force! Next Monday, there will be a [Veterans Day Celebration and Remembrance at 10 a.m.](#) in the UNM Alumni Memorial Chapel with a reception following in the Alumni Chapel Garden. It is a beautiful and moving event and a salute to our fallen heroes.

## A Century of Graduate Studies at UNM

UNM offers 120 graduate and professional degree programs, and the research and teaching of UNM’s graduate students enriches our innovative environment and the experience of our undergraduates. The UNM Office of Graduate Studies, founded in 1919, is celebrating [a milestone 100 years of serving our graduate students](#). The centennial anniversary will be celebrated at the annual [Shared Knowledge Conference](#) this week, and I invite you all to attend the LoboBITES and poster presentations. Additionally, the [Graduate and](#)

[Professional Student Association \(GPSA\) is marking its 50th anniversary](#) with a reception for students in the SUB Atrium just before the Shared Knowledge Conference. I appreciate all that graduate students and Graduate Studies bring to UNM – you provide our society with new ways of looking at the complexity of the world and how we can better the lives of others.

### **UNM Physics Students Recognized for Their Work**

I was excited to learn that five of our graduate and undergraduate researchers in the Physics and Astronomy Department were recently [recognized with awards and cash prizes for their presentations at the Four Corners Section of the American Physical Society](#), which encompasses New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah. More than 20 UNM students and two faculty attended the event where presentations ranged from fundamental studies of exotic particles to the behavior of liquid crystal devices essential for communications and radar. Congratulations to Paul Gieri, Lauren Zundel, Ivey Davis, Ryan Gibbons and Amy Soudachanh – it's these types of recognitions that not only strengthen future job prospects for our students, but also reinforce the academic distinction of our research institution.

### **Smokey Bear Turns 75**

Although I am fortunate to not yet have experienced a full-fledged New Mexico wildfire season, I do know our state is no stranger to the scary and destructive nature of fires. It has been the focus of recent research out of the UNM Biology Department on the [Santa Fe watershed](#) and the [impact of wildfires on climate change](#), and the UNM Economics Department has been looking at using [satellites to do wildfire risk assessment](#). Now our broadcast partners at New Mexico PBS (KNME) are also getting involved by hosting a [live program aimed at raising awareness](#) of the Smokey Bear wildfire prevention program and its 75th anniversary. Later this week, PBS will feature a live program from the Lincoln National Forest in Capitan (where Smokey was found) and viewers can send in questions to be answered by experts. From research to awareness, the responsibility to prevent wildfires rests with all of us.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President