



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



June 24, 2019

*"We see you, see ourselves and know
That we must take the utmost care
And kindness in all things.
Breathe in, knowing we are made of
All this, and breathe, knowing
We are truly blessed because we
Were born..."*

Excerpt from Eagle Poem by Joy Harjo

Good evening.

As we proudly say at UNM, "Each of us defines all us." This theme has continued to reflect the significant positive impacts that the contributions of our students, alumni, faculty and staff have on our communities.

Lobo Poet Laureate

Last week, one of our former students and faculty members, Joy Harjo, was named the [new United States Poet Laureate](#). She is the first Native American to hold the prestigious position, and we are proud of her Lobo roots and the recognition she is receiving for her diligent and beautiful work representing indigenous people, women and artists worldwide.

Lifechanging Research

As a lifelong student of psychology, research in that field is always particularly intriguing to me. That's why I was excited to read about the work of Barbara McCrady, Distinguished Professor of Psychology; Katie Witkiewitz, Regents' Professor of Psychology; and Eric Claus, associate professor at the Mind Research Network, who are examining [why certain treatments are more effective than others](#) for people suffering from Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD). About 16 million people in the U.S. had an AUD in 2015 and although there are many treatments, our faculty members are hoping to build a database outlining which treatments are more effective in different types of people. The study, which aligns with our UNM Grand Challenge focused on Substance Abuse Disorders, could be lifechanging for those living with an AUD and for researchers aiming to better understand how the brain recovers from a drinking addiction.

School of Engineering Students Powering the Future

Many students are gone for summer break, but some are using the time to boost their research...literally. UNM's Lobo Launch team, consisting of 21 mechanical engineering students, [took part in the Spaceport America Cup last week](#)—the first group from UNM to do so. They successfully launched their 79-inch rocket more than 10,000 feet in the air! Teams from more than 120 other schools nationwide attended the event.

Additionally, the School of Engineering's Solar Splash team [placed fourth overall in the national solar-powered boat competition](#), besting 13 other teams from around the country. They also walked away with the Teamwork Award for best coordinated group effort and placed third in the solar slalom event. From sea to space, our student researchers are leading the way to future innovation.

Summer Reading List

Last year I shared my summer reading list developed from community recommendations that were inspired by and reflective of New Mexico's history and culture. This year, if you're looking for titles to add to your summer reading list, consider scrolling through [UNM University Libraries' Facebook page](#). They are featuring staff picks from librarians across many disciplines. Not only is it a good way to find new reading material, but you can also get to know your fellow readers and colleagues at Zimmerman, Parish, Centennial and the Fine Arts Libraries.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President