



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

April 13, 2020

Good afternoon.

One of the hallmarks of Lobo Athletics has always been the ability to adapt to and overcome adversity with courage and teamwork. Our Lobos have continued to be engaged with the community on so many levels, inspiring their peers, colleagues and fans with messages of encouragement and thanks. They have recently teamed up with Albertson's to supply \$1,000 worth of weekly [donations to the Lobo food pantry](#), which have already raised over \$4,000. You may have also seen their [public service announcement calling on all of us to do our part](#) in flattening the curve, as well as our athletic teams offering their thanks and support to medical personnel. And in partnership with UNMH, our Lobos have asked fans to join them in [taking a pledge](#) to promise to adhere to recommended protocols during the pandemic. I am so grateful for the Lobo spirit and generosity demonstrated by our student-athletes, coaches and staff, as well as our many fans and supporters. Go Lobos!

## Engineering New Solutions in Response to Pandemic

At UNM, we pride ourselves on approaching challenges with ingenuity and creativity. During this difficult time our research activities have enabled us to create opportunities and connect in new ways to advance our mission. Anticipating a scarcity of personal protective equipment, [UNM engineers, biologists and mathematicians have engaged with community partners to study, design, and produce effective face masks, and assess ways to safely disinfect them for reuse](#). Our students and faculty are drawing on their expertise, UNM research facilities, and both public and private partnerships to provide much needed solutions in the battle against the COVID-19.

## Prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship Awarded to Fine Arts Faculty

Guggenheim Fellowships are one of the nation's most prestigious academic honors, awarded to those individuals who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts. The Foundation received nearly 3,000 applications this year, and awarded 175 Fellowships to a diverse group of artists, scholars and writers. I am delighted that [Dr. José-Luis Hurtado, Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition, is among the 2020 recipients](#). This high honor is well-deserved, and Dr. Hurtado's distinctive work is a vivid reflection of the UNM College of Fine Arts' mission to engage in creative and inspirational art and music.

## Campus Climate Events Encourage Understanding and Kindness During Covid-19

While we may be physically distanced during these uncertain times, UNM is still strongly dedicated to ensuring that our campus continues to uphold its values of equity and inclusion. Not only must we be vigilant in rejecting bias in our community – physical or virtual – but we also must support those of us who may be experiencing anxiety and concern for their family and loved ones, as well as for themselves. The Division of Equity and Inclusion has planned events to address issues of racism and xenophobia

towards certain groups – including microaggressions, discrimination, avoidance, harassment, threats and physical assaults. Panels will discuss how valuing inclusivity means remembering that we all have different circumstances, and the importance of treating everyone with respect, both in their presence and in their absence. The first panel, which was held last week, addressed the impact on students and included a focus on resources such as our ethnic and support centers. This Friday, April 17, the climate panel will focus on the impact on faculty and staff. A third event is being planned with the Asian American Student Association and other affected student groups during which we will hear their concerns and brainstorms ways to address issues they are facing. Together, we will find strength through understanding, patience and kindness.

## **UNM Teaching Mission Persists Abroad**

As we navigate the move to a virtual environment this spring, the perspectives of the people who make up the Lobo community are a big part of what enhances our shared experience. For Associate Professor David Weiss of the UNM Department of Communication & Journalism, his sabbatical in Prague has “allowed him to find the beauty in the midst of a dark pandemic.” Having been in the Czech Republic since February, he has moved his classes on strategic planning and political communication at Charles University in Prague online, facing the challenges of condensing curriculum and keeping students engaged – just like many of his colleagues here. I hope Lobos will continue to share their stories with us and with each other, keeping us connected in as many ways as possible.

In addition to checking the UNM COVID-19 web page, please also be aware that several departments have created detailed information pages including Graduate Studies, the Office of Advising Strategies, Student Health and Counseling (SHAC), Human Resources and the Health Sciences Center.

Please stay safe and healthy, and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes  
President