



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



August 3, 2020

Good afternoon, Colleagues.

As the Fall 2020 semester is only a few short weeks away, I want to welcome the students who are arriving this week to move into UNM student housing. Due to State health requirements, our out-of-state students will be living under a mandatory 14-day period of limited interactions and self-monitoring that will end just as their first classes begin on Monday, August 17. We've worked hard to make their return to campus as safe and welcoming as possible, as many of our early arrivals will be coming to UNM for their first year. Our [Residence Life and Student Housing team have issued guidance on how to comply with public health mandates](#) while moving in, grabbing meals, and staying physically and mentally healthy during the critical two-week period.

And for those of you who've been staying home, staying healthy, and perhaps haven't set foot on campus since we left in March . . . first, thank you for doing your part to keep yourself and our pack safe. Second, should you return to campus, you'll find it looks the same, even as it operates completely differently. We've got new signage, for instance, indicating the flow of one-way traffic in many of our buildings and marks on the floor to indicate where to stand while waiting in line for anything. Our staff and volunteers [have worked tirelessly](#) to configure our classrooms to ensure students are seated the recommended six feet apart and that any other in-person interactions will happen safely. To that end, in-person class sizes are limited--you won't see a packed lecture at Woodward Hall at the moment.

Fortunately, we have plenty of [open space](#), so students can still gather together outdoors while masked and maintaining a safe physical distance. Seeing people enjoying our beautiful campus is a constant at UNM, and I'm glad our students still have the opportunity to relax and enjoy each other's company at the Duck Pond, for instance, as Lobos have for generations now.

Even with precautions in place and some new ways of operating, you'll find it's still The University of New Mexico. Thanks to all of you, our students are still spirited, they're still curious, and they're still loyal and devoted Lobos.

## **It's August 3. Here's What You Need to Know as we Bring Back the Pack for the Fall 2020 Semester.**

We regularly update our [Bring Back the Pack website](#) with the latest information from across our entire campus community. Information is changing constantly, so please keep checking back for the most up-to-date guidance.

## **Indigenous and Cultural Learning Communities Advance UNM Mission**

As the discussion continues over our national identity and the roles of various peoples and cultures in building and defining our country's character, it is more important than ever to reaffirm that The University of New Mexico supports an environment of free and open inquiry and academic freedom for our faculty and students.

We understand that as the debate turns to the examination of America's pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial history—and particularly the role of Spanish conquistadors—that our Chicana & Chicano Studies and Native American Studies programs are crucial to exploring these and other difficult issues. These are conversations that are not only important to our nation, but vital to who we are as a region and as a University community. Our nationally recognized programs have been driven by the passion and expertise not only of our faculty, but of generations of students who have worked tirelessly to ensure inclusivity in the representation of their respective histories, research and scholarship.

### **Director of Finance & Administration, Strategic Initiatives Will Oversee COVID Response**

It is a pleasure to welcome Carla P. Domenici as the Director of Finance and Administration, Strategic Initiatives. In response to the challenges UNM is facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sr. VP of Finance and Administration Teresa Costantinidis reallocated existing resources within Safety and Risk Services (SRS) by selecting Ms. Domenici to serve in this position. Domenici will lead and coordinate the implementation of UNM's response to emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic. She will also support University leadership in implementing effective plans, policies, and procedures and ensuring compliance with federal, state, and local regulations and public health guidance in times of critical need or crisis. As a longtime UNM employee previously holding positions in the Office of University Counsel and SRS, Domenici is uniquely qualified to serve in this role. Please join me in welcoming her to her new position in the Lobo community.

### **Requesting Community Feedback on HSC EVP Candidates**

Last week, the [HSC Search Advisory Committee](#) completed its interviews with the fourth and final candidate for the new HSC Executive Vice President. As the final selection process moves forward, it is vital that the University community be engaged in this critical leadership recruitment. [I encourage you to watch the video interviews, review the materials submitted by the four EVP candidates, and complete the Feedback Surveys by August 6.](#)

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes  
President