



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



January 21, 2020

Good morning.

Let me first take the opportunity to welcome everyone back for the first week of the spring semester – and to thank the staff and faculty who have been preparing in anticipation of our students' return. I look forward to seeing you on campus, whether during [Spring Welcome Back Days](#), at [Traveling Office Hours](#) or one of many opportunities we have to join together as Lobos. Here's to a great 2020 for all of us!

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically...Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We took yesterday as a national holiday to honor the life and legacy of one of our country's most courageous, compassionate and principled icons – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As an undergraduate student in 1948, he wrote a column in the Morehouse College newspaper cautioning us to value education not only for the intellectual knowledge it provided but also for “the accumulated experience of social living.” People learn from the time they are born, but acquiring knowledge by constructing it through an engaged educational process is the cornerstone of critical thought and the mission of The University of New Mexico. I hope you will take some time this week to reflect on how each of us might follow Dr. King's example to create and benefit from an environment of diverse experiences and dynamic learning, in which we are all inspired to explore new ideas, express opinions, draw conclusions, and find value in who we are both as individuals and as Lobos.

The beginning of the year is a perfect time to evaluate our current state and set a course for where we aspire to be. Today is the start of New Mexico's 30-day legislative session, which Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham will kick off at noon with her [State of the State address](#). To stay informed about initiatives that affect UNM, please [sign up for the listserv \(GOVREL-L\)](#). Later this week, on Thursday, I hope to see many of you at our own [State of the University address](#), which will also be live-streamed on the [office of the president](#) web site. We have much to look forward to, both as a flagship institution and a state – that is why we continue to be the University for New Mexico.

Have a great week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President