



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



January 27, 2020

Good afternoon.

In my second [State of the University address](#) last week, I talked a lot about opportunity - the opportunities we provide and the opportunities we pursue. As we forge ahead into 2020 and begin our strategic planning efforts for the next 20 years, I would like to reiterate that “here at UNM, we acknowledge opportunity isn’t simply found; it’s created. With timing, preparation and an openness to new ideas, we can seek out or initiate opportunities and do something impressive, something transcendent, something beautiful, or something groundbreaking.” I am grateful to the many of you who attended or joined online and who have made us the University for New Mexico.

## **Telling the Lobo Story in Santa Fe**

Today we celebrated UNM Day at the Roundhouse - our state capitol building. This is always a great opportunity to promote many of the contributions our university makes to communities throughout and beyond New Mexico, as well as showcasing our schools, campuses and programs. [Thank you to all of our students, staff and faculty who were in Santa Fe representing UNM](#) and showing New Mexico’s citizens the far-reaching impact of our university. This evening, I am looking forward to joining the UNM Alumni Association at its annual legislative appreciation reception, where Lobos past and present will take the opportunity to thank our state’s leaders for their support of UNM and service to New Mexico.

## **UNM/US Department of the Navy Co-host Regional Discussion on Sexual Misconduct**

The University of New Mexico is continuing efforts to lead higher education in advancing the conversation around ways to eliminate sexual violence from our communities. Next week, on February 6, we are joining the US Department of the Navy to co-host the second [Regional Discussion on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment at America’s Colleges, Universities and Service Academies](#). This day-long event will center around the sharing of best practices and research-driven approaches and is designed to increase awareness and develop effective prevention programs. Nearly 200 people have already registered, and [the event will also be live-streamed](#) for those who cannot attend in person.

## **UNM Africana Studies Program Golden Anniversary**

This year we are proud to [celebrate 50 years of excellence in Africana Studies](#) in teaching, research, leadership and impact at The University of New Mexico. We are commemorating this important anniversary with stories about the programs and the people of what began as Afro Studies in 1970. We started the celebration this past Saturday with an inspiring 35th annual Black History Month Kickoff Brunch, featuring journalist, author, and TV and online show host Roland Martin. As an important part of both UNM’s history and future, the Africana Studies Program will be highlighting its commitment to ‘academic excellence and

social responsibility' over the upcoming months, including hosting the [Inaugural Southwest Conference on Black Studies](#) from April 29 - May 2.

### **Deadline Extended to Provide Input on New University Seal**

The University's seal is an important part of our institution's heritage and is reserved for use on our most official communications including, of course, our students' diplomas. As many of you know, the Division of Equity and Inclusion has been leading a comprehensive effort to develop a new University seal - one that reflects the continued growth and evolution of UNM over our nearly 131-year history. Five designs created by people within our broad university community have been selected by the seal committee and are currently available for public review. The deadline to [provide your preference and any additional feedback has been extended to February 7](#). I hope you will participate by providing your thoughts about the five proposed designs.

### **2019 UNM Gives Campaign**

Thank you to everyone who generously pledged to the United Way of Central New Mexico and/or the UNM Foundation during the UNM Gives Campaign. The 2019 campaign raised over \$915,000 and counting to give back to our community. I want to commend the nearly 1,100 faculty and staff who participated, as well as those who helped promote the campaign. Your generosity and commitment will help improve lives and strengthen New Mexican communities, including right here at UNM. As promised, HSC Chancellor Roth and I will be delivering pizza kindly donated by Saggio's to the School of Architecture and Planning and the School of Medicine's Department of Surgery next Monday, in recognition of the highest levels of contribution.

Have a great week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes  
President