



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



February 3, 2020

Good afternoon.

More than a century ago, the great Carter G. Woodson — son of slaves, former coal miner, and self-educated historian — earned a Ph.D. in history at Harvard in 1912 at age 37. Three years later, in September 1915, he and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and people of African descent – the DNA of what would become Black History Month. It was in 1926 that he and the Association sponsored a national Negro History Week, choosing the second week in February for a very good reason: it marked the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. While Negro History Week would be marked in communities for the next five decades, what we now call Black History Month wouldn't be formally recognized and celebrated in the United States until February 10, 1976 – when President Gerald Ford encouraged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” As we [celebrate Black History Month](#) as well as 50 years of our Africana Studies Program, we're reminded why, perhaps more than ever, Black History not only matters, but also that Black History resonates. That is because Black History IS American History. It is a much-needed reminder that our history as a nation is multi-cultural—and that it is this plurality that unites us and makes us stronger.

UNM recognized by Carnegie Foundation for Community Engagement

Advancing the public purpose of The University of New Mexico through community engagement enhances scholarship and research, while concurrently benefitting those we serve. I am incredibly proud to say that UNM is one of the 119 U.S. colleges and universities to [receive the prestigious 2020 Carnegie Community Engagement Classification](#), an elective designation that indicates institutional commitment to community engagement. Our leadership, faculty, staff and students strive to ensure that we are truly the University for New Mexico, actively embracing and engaging with communities across the state to take on challenges facing us locally and globally. The Community Engagement Classification by Carnegie recognizes that our efforts are indeed changing lives in communities across our state—and around the world. A special thanks goes to former Director of Community Engagement Initiatives Monica M. Kowal for her dedicated work in leading the data collection process and forwarding UNM's application.

Campus Forums for Albuquerque Gateway Center Site Proposal

UNM's Albuquerque campus has a broad footprint, stretching along several miles of University Boulevard and throughout the city. From research parks and athletic complexes, to performing arts spaces and lecture halls, to hospitals and halls of justice, our physical spaces are deeply representative of our mission. It is, therefore, important that the University community be well-informed about the proposal to use UNM-owned land south of the State Laboratory for the City of Albuquerque's Gateway Center. This center would be

focused on housing and services for those experiencing homelessness. The City has [compiled community input](#) received in December 2019, as well as [resources and information](#) related to the Gateway Center and City efforts to end homelessness. I encourage you to read this information and I want to hear from you about any concerns you may have.

This week and the next, we will be having a [series of open forums on campus](#), in various locations, so everyone has a chance to learn more and ask questions of panel experts. ASUNM (our undergraduate student government) will also hold a student-led forum next week. A community-wide survey will follow these events to solicit opinions relative to the site proposal.

Wherever the Gateway Center is ultimately located, we are unwavering in our commitment to providing the necessary services and support to one of our most vulnerable populations and thereby bettering the community in which we live.

UNM Scientist Honored with AAAS Lifetime Mentor Award

Mentorship and community building are hallmarks of outstanding scholarship and research. Congratulations to professor Angela Wandinger-Ness, Department of Pathology, who is being [honored this month by the American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\) with its 2020 Lifetime Mentor Award](#). The award recognizes her for mentoring some 270 scientists over her 29-year teaching career and demonstrating extraordinary leadership in increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in science and engineering fields.

UNM Receives Renewed NIH Funding

I am pleased to announce that [The University of New Mexico Clinical & Translational Science Center \(CTSC\)](#) will be re-funded for another five years, until 2025. UNM has won renewal of its \$22 million Clinical and Translational Science Award from the National Institutes of Health, plus supplemental opportunities worth more than \$20 million and pilot funding of \$5 million. Since 2010, the CTSC has grown the UNM Health Sciences research mission, mentored junior faculty to success, developed new educational and training programs and launched community collaborations throughout New Mexico.

My [traveling office hours](#) start up again this week. The Accessibility Resource Center will be our host on Wednesday, February 5, at 10:30 a.m. in Mesa Vista Hall, room 2040. Please stop by if you are able - I look forward to continuing to meet and hear from you.

Have a great week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President