



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



February 10, 2020

Good afternoon.

*"I have discovered in life that there are ways of getting almost anywhere you want to go, if you really want to go."*

- Langston Hughes

## **The Langston Hughes Project Comes to UNM**

As we continue to celebrate [Black History Month at UNM](#), we are privileged to have the final creative masterwork of Langston Hughes, an iconic leader of the Harlem Renaissance, performed on campus February 21, followed by an off-campus fundraising concert on February 22 to benefit [UNM African American Student Services \(AASS\)](#). The [two multimedia concert performances of Hughes' "Ask Your Mama: Twelve Moods for Jazz"](#) feature the Ron McCurdy Quartet, with UNM's own Rodney Bowe joining on bass. Preceding the concerts, on February 20, Ron McCurdy will present [two master lectures](#) titled The Poets, Dancers and Musicians of the Harlem Renaissance and The Artist Entrepreneur: Creating and Minding Your Own Business. These are wonderful experiential learning opportunities for all Lobos, and I appreciate the work of AASS in bringing them to the University community.

## **UNM Among Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program Top Producing Institutions**

At UNM, we benefit from new global perspectives and collaborations, which often lead to opportunities for intellectual and personal growth as well as impactful discoveries. I am so proud to see UNM included on the list of [U.S. colleges and universities that produced the most 2019-2020 Fulbright U.S. Scholars](#); with eight scholars, UNM is among the seven institutions tied for having the fourth-highest number of awardees. Additionally, six UNM students received Fulbright awards in 2019-2020. This reflects the expansive reach and engagement we have in our world as the University for New Mexico. Our Fulbright recipients are top scholars and researchers within their disciplines, and these prestigious and highly competitive awards open doors for them to share their talents on a worldwide scale and to bring back new ways of thinking and learning to UNM.

## **UNM Earns Platinum Family Friendly Business Award**

Work-life benefits not only enrich our employee experience, but also attract and retain talent. I'm proud to say that UNM was recognized again this year by [Family Friendly New Mexico](#) for having family-friendly policies that help employees be successful at work and at home, including the new Paid Parental Leave Policy, among others. About 200 businesses are recognized with the family friendly designation across the state, and both UNM and UNM Hospitals were among 29 to receive the [platinum designation - or "distinguished leader"](#) - which is the highest level of recognition. My thanks to our Human Resources Department and the many others who have played a part in promoting the well-being of our employees and the long-term organizational success of UNM.

## Conference on Sexual Assault - Beyond Compliance

Last week, I was honored to welcome Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly and Melissa Cohen, director of the Department of the Navy Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, to New Mexico and to UNM. Our University was asked by the Department of the Navy to [co-host a regional conference](#) aimed at exchanging ideas and collaborating on ways to reduce sexual assault and harassment at higher education institutions. Our efforts at UNM, following an agreement with the Department of Justice, went above and beyond the recommendations, making us a role model for how universities, colleges and service academies can take on these critical challenges — but as we discussed at the conference, this is about more than legal compliance. It's vital that universities put their principles into practice by creating and supporting an ongoing culture of campus integrity but also to understand that there is no off-the-shelf quick fix that will solve all our problems. Nearly 300 people registered to attend the conference last week, representing 18 states and Canada, and almost 200 others were watching [via livestream](#). The turnout and discussion solidified, in my mind, that we are on the right path to reducing – and, ideally, preventing – sexual misconduct and violence.

I would like to remind you that [forums on the City of Albuquerque's Gateway Center site proposal](#) will be going on this week followed by the availability of a University-wide survey to gather feedback. The challenges presented by the prevalence of homelessness in our community are of great importance to all of us, and it is my hope that all Lobos will be engaged in understanding the many causes of homelessness in Albuquerque and the solutions being considered. Please be sure to get informed and ask any questions you may have.

Have a great week and Let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes  
President