



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



February 24, 2020

Good afternoon.

As the 2020 New Mexico legislative session ended on Thursday, lawmakers passed the state budget for FY21, which includes a higher-education budget of \$909.5 million, a 4.4% increase above the final FY20 higher education budget. I am very pleased with our progress during this legislative session, and would like to thank everyone, especially our student leaders, legislators, UNM government relations team, and Council of University Presidents, who worked tirelessly to advocate in Santa Fe for UNM. Highlights of the session include the approval of \$51,400,000 to go to voters for inclusion in the next GO Bond. This includes research infrastructure and a new building for the Colleges of Nursing and Population Health; an additional \$7,875,000 of capital outlay will be awarded through Severance Tax Bonds and General Funds to UNM and its branch campuses; a \$4.9 million (2.5%) performance-based increase in I&G funding for main campus; and a \$940,800 (1.5%) increase for School of Medicine I&G. The Higher Education Department received \$12 million toward the Opportunity Scholarship Fund, which will prioritize financial aid based on need to undergraduate, credential-seeking students who are enrolled in a two-year academic program. The legislature also approved a 4% “average” compensation increase for higher education faculty and staff at the 70% compensation calculation. Information on all bills tracked by UNM during the session and [summary of all legislative projects](#) is currently available, and further details will be provided in the coming weeks as we move toward our budget summit and legislation is signed by the Governor.

131 Years of Being The University for New Mexico

The University of New Mexico is celebrating 131 years of bringing excellence in education, research and community service to the Land of Enchantment. To celebrate, everyone is invited to [Lobo Day at the SUB](#) Atrium this Friday, Feb. 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to enjoy arcade games, free shirts and cake before we take the annual birthday photo that hangs in the SUB for the rest of the year. It's a day Lobos looks forward to and a time to reflect on our history as an institution and our potential for the future. Many thanks to the collaborative efforts of ASUNM Lobo Spirit, the Student Activities Center, University Communication and Marketing, Athletics, and the Office of Alumni Relations for their efforts in making every UNM birthday a celebration worth attending. Don't forget to wear your red!

Lobos Creating Community Awareness

Being a part of a caring university community has lasting effects on our lives, and especially those of our students. Our campus is brought to life by energetic events and occasions that not only create opportunities for personal growth and engagement, but also build awareness of the needs of others, creating a culture of philanthropy, volunteerism and compassion.

- [LoboTHON](#), New Mexico's largest student-run philanthropy, is now in its 7th year of raising funds to benefit the UNM Children's Hospital. [This year's goal is to raise \\$111,000](#). LoboTHON hosts a series of events throughout the year to reach its fundraising goal. This year, it is organizing its first annual

fundraising run/walk - [Miles for Miracle on March 7th, 2020](#), with 100% of the proceeds benefiting the UNM Children's Hospital. Its largest fundraising event, [the annual 13.1-hour dance marathon](#), is set for March 28 this year. My hope is not only that we'll succeed in raising money, but also in raising awareness for our Children's Hospital and the goal of giving every child a chance to be a Lobo.

- Every year, UNM fraternities and sororities raise money for philanthropies during [Greek Week](#), last year raising more than \$20,000 for the UNM Food Pantry. Greek Week runs from February 22-29 and includes events like Greek Sing, Trivia Night, and Greek Games. This year's charity is Special Olympics of New Mexico. Students, faculty and staff can contribute to the cause by donating money at the SUB food venues all week. Please consider supporting our Fraternities and Sororities as they raise funds to strengthen our New Mexico community.
- Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women in the United States, and an estimated 1,570 women in New Mexico will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2020. The University of New Mexico UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center is promoting breast cancer awareness this month through the [Lobos Love Pink!](#) basketball games, and encourages you and your loved ones to get screened. Come howl your support for the Lobos and all our friends and loved ones whose lives have been affected by breast cancer... and don't forget to wear pink to show your support! Breast cancer survivors will be recognized during the Men's game this Saturday, Feb. 29, against Utah State.
- In recognition of [National Eating Disorders Awareness Week](#), Dreamstyle Arena ("The Pit") will be one of over 100 buildings nationwide - including the Empire State Building - illuminated in blue and/or green during the week of February 24 through March 1, 2020. UNM's participation brings greater recognition to this important mental health issue.

Participation Reminders for EVP of Health Sciences Search and Gateway Center Proposal

A reminder that [public community listening sessions](#) regarding the [search for the next Executive Vice President of Health Sciences](#) are being held today and tomorrow, at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, respectively; both will begin at 5:30 p.m. The events will [be livestreamed](#) and a brief [survey](#) is available to provide feedback. The University is also still soliciting community feedback via a [survey on the City of Albuquerque's proposed Gateway Center](#) site being located on UNM-owned land. Both surveys will remain open through Friday, February 28.

Have a great week, and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President