



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 9, 2020

Good morning.

As we head into the last week before many members of our campus community enjoy a much-anticipated spring break, I want to wish you a safe and relaxing time off. If you are planning a spring break trip or other travel, I urge you to please take proactive steps to keep yourself healthy. I recognize the uncertainty that the global coronavirus (COVID-19) health issue is creating. I can assure you that the University is monitoring and responding to the situation, and will continue to [keep you informed and up to date](#) as it evolves. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has not yet provided specific guidance regarding domestic travel. That said, those considering trips should keep in mind their own individual risk factors, such as chronic illness or immunosuppression, and closely follow the CDC's travel updates and other guidance related to COVID-19 before and during travel.

UNM 2040: Opportunity Defined Vision Workshop

As I stated at the beginning of the year in my [State of the University Address](#), “success is rooted in opportunities—the opportunities we provide, and the opportunities we pursue.” As we engage in important conversations about the future of the University for New Mexico, we are providing and pursuing opportunities to clearly define our vision and mission, address our most pressing institutional challenges in a rapidly evolving higher education landscape, and focus our talent and resources on shared strategic priorities. I have asked Provost James Holloway to coordinate our UNM 2040: Opportunity Defined planning effort, and to kick it off, students, faculty and staff are being asked to join a visioning workshop on March 27, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon in the Student Union Building. This first event will include 30 representatives from each constituency, and in order to be fair in the selection process, participants will be randomly chosen from those who [register between now and March 23](#). This process will be inclusive and transparent, and multiple opportunities for all members of the university community to provide input will be made available to shape our future direction in the coming months.

Every Lobo Counts

As our country prepares for the [2020 Census](#), a constitutionally mandated, nationwide count of everyone in the United States, we are preparing our university community to be active and engaged. An accurate count is imperative to making sure New Mexico receives appropriate federal funding and Congressional representation, which affect our community's public resources, such as roads, hospitals and schools. In mid-March, homes across the country will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. The [UNM 2020 Complete Count Committee](#) has developed ways for individual students and student organizations to educate and encourage their peers to participate. To promote national Census Day on April 1, they are holding a block party on Cornell Mall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be free food, information tables with representatives from the Census Bureau on-hand to answer questions, and computers available for completing the Census online. [Let's make every Lobo count!](#)

UNM Budget Recommendation to go to Full Board of Regents

This morning at 9 a.m., I will join the Board of Regents and other University leadership as the tuition, fees and salary guidelines recommended at last week's Health Sciences and Finance and Facilities Board subcommittee meetings are presented for approval. I would like to commend the efforts of the [Budget Leadership Team](#), which has been working since last July to align our budget to institutional priorities. There is still much work to be done in the coming weeks and months as we move toward having the entire institutional budget approved in May. Also on the Board meeting [agenda](#) is the annual election of officers.

UNM Police Department Chief McCabe Announces Retirement

After a decade of service to our university community, UNM Police Chief Kevin McCabe has [announced his plans to retire](#) at the end of June. Chief McCabe has led the department for the past six years and has built a strong community engagement component into its culture and practice. He has been unwavering in his support of our prioritized public safety initiative and the efforts that have stemmed from it. Many thanks to Chief McCabe for his years of dedicated service to the University - I wish him the best in his retirement.

Green Zone Training Reminder

I'd like to remind everyone that you are invited to attend the Green Zone Training, on March 12 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the SUB, Santa Ana rooms A & B. Green Zone Training prepares University faculty, staff and students to better understand the experience of veterans, service members and their families. Participants will be able to recognize the strengths, challenges and unique needs of our military student population and the services available to them. The event is free but you are encouraged to [register in advance](#).

Have great week and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President