



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



July 27, 2020

Good afternoon, Colleagues.

This is a time in our lives like no other. Across the country, and around the world, we see political, racial, social, and economic unrest and upheaval. There's outrage and anger, but there's also courage and kindness. Spaces to express one's passion and frustration are often available only through electronic media – like this message. And I must tell you I really miss the opportunities for personal and meaningful interactions that have always been a part of the Lobo community.

Those interactions aren't always easy. As leaders at a university—a place where the free exchange of ideas is valued and disagreement is a natural part of obtaining a degree—we embrace the open debate and discussion driven by these issues. There are critical conversations to have—and we encourage such dialogue, whether it takes place in a Mitchell Hall classroom or out on Johnson Field as part of a peaceful protest. Our job as educators and as administrators is to ensure these conversations or protests, when they happen, happen respectfully and safely—and in a way that guarantees that no one's civil rights are infringed.

But our responsibilities don't end there. A public university is by its very nature an apolitical entity, but that doesn't mean we don't have a point of view. At UNM, our politics are pretty simple: we stand for the rights of our students to receive exceptional higher education—and we support our faculty in providing that education, which often involves challenging assumptions and shaking up the status quo. When politics, policies, or posturing impedes our mission, we take it personally, and we take action. We approach our legislators at the appropriate levels of government, engage our community, and raise our voices to bring awareness to an issue and to encourage appropriate changes.

Ultimately, it is our underlying mission and our commitment to our students and community that defines who we are and what we do—and when anything stands in the way of that, we'll always stand with you, Lobos.

It's July 27. Here's What You Need to Know as we Bring Back the Pack for the Fall 2020 Semester

We regularly update our Bring Back the Pack website with the latest guidance from across our entire campus community. Click [here](#) for the latest information—and keep checking back, as information is updated daily.

Project ECHO Announced as MacArthur 100 & Change Finalist

UNM's [Project ECHO](#) is one of six national finalists for the prestigious [MacArthur 100 & Change competition](#), a competitive grant that provides \$100 million to fund a single proposal that promises real and measurable progress in solving a critical problem. ECHO's proposal focuses on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing to scale the development of ECHO's collaborative model of medical education and care management to programs in Africa and India. Watch for ECHO in [this video](#) on the six finalists, and

congratulations to our Lobo team!

Innovation Academy Awarded \$300,000 CARES Grant

UNM continues to use its reach and influence to assist small businesses struggling around our state during the current economic downturn. Recently, [the University received \\$300,000 in CARES Act Recovery Assistance from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration](#). This funding, provided to UNM's Innovation Academy and Rainforest Innovations (formerly STC.UNM), will be used to expand training for small business recovery and will provide businesses with expertise in e-commerce that will enable them to take more of their business activity online during the current COVID-related economic downturn. More than 225 businesses have already received the benefit of this expertise from Rainforest Innovations; the additional CARES funding will permit UNM to reach even more small businesses across the state.

Lobo Teams Recognized by NCAA for Academic Excellence

Our Lobo student-athletes continue to lead and succeed not only athletically, but academically. UNM was recently informed by the NCAA that several of our teams are recipients of the NCAA Public Recognition Award, bestowed on teams with an NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate in the top 10 percent of all squads in their respective sports. Congratulations to **Coach Paul Weir** and the Men's Basketball Team, **Coach Jill Trujillo** and the Women's Golf Team, and **Coach Glen Millican** and the Men's Golf Team for leading by example.

UNM Welcomes Fourth Candidate for Health Sciences EVP

Amid the work being done to Bring Back the Pack, the HSC Search Advisory Committee continues with its task of conducting a rigorous search for a new HSC Executive Vice President. The fourth and final candidate, [Dr. Douglas Ziedonis](#), will interview on July 27, 28, and 29. While the limitations imposed by the current pandemic present any number of challenges, including those surrounding a potential site visit by any candidate, it is important that the University community be engaged in this critical leadership recruitment. I encourage you to review materials from the four candidates and complete the Feedback Surveys.

Pre-K-12 Parent Planning Survey Extended

The survey launched last week for parents of Pre-K-12 children garnered over 2,000 responses, giving us good information on how parents and families might be impacted by the new K-12 fall class schedules. In response to several requests, we are [reopening the survey](#) and extending the deadline to Friday, July 31 at noon. If you have not had a chance to participate, please help us to better understand your needs.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and let's go, Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President