



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



August 10, 2020

Good afternoon, Lobos.

With the first day of the Fall semester a week away, we're truly starting to bring back the pack. If you've been on campus lately, you're likely seeing more and more people bustling about—and as a reminder to us all, under current health protocols, masks are **required** in public spaces on UNM's campus at all times, including when you are outside. Safety remains our number one priority, and wearing a mask helps protect all of us from spreading the virus; my mask protects you, and your mask protects me. I know they can be hot and tend to fog up your glasses, but for the good of the pack, **keep those masks on**. If you're so inclined, wear a mask that reflects your own interests or personality. You'll even find UNM and Lobo-branded masks available at the UNM Bookstore.

While we are doing everything we can to keep those who are returning to campus as safe as possible, we also know that some Lobos may be uncomfortable returning to a campus and classroom environment. That's why, under our hybrid instruction, students may take as many classes remotely as they choose—in many cases, they can even go entirely to remote instruction. And let me make it clear that in-person and remote courses are both counted **exactly the same** when it comes to course hours, graduation requirements, scholarship eligibility, and classes counted toward a major. So please don't worry about whether your six hours of classes taken remotely will count toward fulfilling the hours required to keep a scholarship; they do.

Finally, I want to extend a special thanks and offer any needed support to our students coming in from other states, who are required under New Mexico's public health protocols to quarantine in place for 14 days. For our freshmen in particular, who may already feel the anxiety of adjusting to their new lives as college students, a quarantine requirement is an additional and unexpected layer of complexity. I'm so grateful to all of our students who are currently limiting their contact with others and self-monitoring in the name of protecting our pack, and to the staff and faculty who have worked so hard to offer a meaningful and positive Lobo experience under these extraordinary circumstances.

## It's August 10. Here's What You Need to Know as We Bring Back the Pack for Fall 2020.

We regularly update our [Bring Back the Pack website](#) with the latest information from across our entire campus community. Here's what's new:

- **Instructors should work directly with their chairs before August 12 if they wish to change their course delivery modality to fully remote.** Because of the planning necessary to ensure safety and cleaning for classrooms, it is not possible to shift from remote to face-to-face delivery at this time. Sending an e-mail to students with information about class times, location, and learning management system—such as UNM Learn, Teams, etc.—will help students be ready for the start of classes. Please make sure that [face-to-face classes end on time](#) so that cleaning can occur between face-to-face class meetings.
- At a time when Lobos need information quickly on class schedules, financial aid, graduation requirements, or just a little help navigating campus—the UNM Division of Enrollment Management is [providing virtual assistance through its “Ask Me” portal and campus kiosks](#). They'll be taking questions starting on Monday, August 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and again at the same time on Tuesday, August 18.

- Guidance is now available for instructors on [what to do if a student informs you they have tested positive for COVID-19](#).

Information is changing constantly, so please keep checking back for the most up-to-date guidance.

## Welcome Back Days Begin August 14

With classes starting on Monday, August 17, our annual week-long [Welcome Back Days](#) begins this Friday, August 14, so that students and their families can familiarize themselves with campus and campus life. Typically, our colleges and departments set up information tents at the Duck Pond; this year, as you might expect, we'll be doing things differently, and are moving our week of sessions and events online. We encourage all departments to check the full schedule and to [set up a specific time to be available to take questions from students](#). On Sunday, August 16, we will officially welcome the class of 2024 for Freshman Day. [Celebratory events](#) will include a [Lobo Launch at 3 p.m. on Facebook live](#) and [the annual class crawl](#), which offers both virtual and in-person opportunities for new students and their families to discover where their classes will be located on the University of New Mexico central campus.

## UNM Student Wins Prestigious Counseling Scholarship

I'm delighted to share with you the news that Dèsa Karye Daniel, a UNM doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program, has been [selected by the National Board for Certified Counselors \(NBCC\) Foundation to receive one of its prestigious fellowship awards](#). As an NBCC MFP Doctoral Fellow, Daniel will receive a \$20,000 scholarship, along with training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved populations. My warmest congratulations to Dèsa on her remarkable achievement—and we can't wait to watch you get to work.

## Equity and Inclusion Staff Rises to Meet New Challenges

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote an inclusive campus culture in which students, faculty, and staff are welcomed and supported, the Division of Equity and Inclusion has tapped [professors Nancy López and Elizabeth Quay Hutchison to join its staff as Associate Vice Presidents, while Mónica Jenrette will serve as a Programmer/Analyst](#). Working together, our team at DEI will continue the critical work of creating, maintaining, and overseeing initiatives that promote and foster diversity, academic inclusive excellence, and an inclusive climate, as well as continually improving UNM's capacity to support faculty and staff who may have been the targets of harassment or violence.

## Popejoy Presents Offers Special Discount to UNM Faculty and Staff

August is the final opportunity to take advantage of the [special benefit discount subscription](#) for the 2020-2021 Popejoy Presents season at Popejoy Hall. Through the end of August, faculty and staff may secure season tickets for half price, and subscribers to the Broadway in New Mexico series are guaranteed seats to the theater blockbuster Hamilton, making its New Mexico debut. For information on all shows and discounted subscription rates, please visit [Popejoy Presents](#). Take advantage of this one-of-a-kind benefit for faculty and staff--and in January 2021, you, too, can be in the room where it happens.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes  
President

