



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



September 14, 2020

Good afternoon, Lobos.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins tomorrow, September 15, and runs through Thursday, October 15. Why start a celebration in the middle of the month? September 15 marks the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, while Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on September 16 and September 18, respectively. For the next 30 days, we as a nation pay tribute to and honor the cultures and contributions of Hispanics and Latin Americans.

Nationally, those who identify as Hispanic make up about 18.5 percent of the U.S. population; in New Mexico, however, our population is around 45 percent, and counting. As Lobos, we truly celebrate our Hispanic heritage every day; it is a rich and vibrant part of our New Mexican DNA. We're very proud that our nationally recognized Chicana and Chicano Studies Department continues to explore and examine our state and nation's Hispanic heritage, while recognizing and making new contributions to Hispanic history, arts and culture, and countless other disciplines.

"It is important," wrote Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic member of our nation's highest court, "for all of us to appreciate where we come from and how that history has really shaped us in ways that we might not understand." Throughout September and early October, then, I encourage you explore and appreciate the history that has shaped us, our community, and our university. Study and enjoy Hispanic art and history, for instance, or read any of our great Chicano/a writers—[you'll find plenty available from UNM Press](#)—and reflect on this unique part of our legacy as Lobos

Equity & Inclusion to Hold Virtual Townhall on Promising Practices in UNM Campus Safety

The well-being of the UNM community remains one of our top priorities, whether we're working to put into place health protocols to respond to COVID-19 or striving to ensure our campus is safe and welcoming. We continue to explore opportunities to improve our approaches to campus safety. As we begin the search for our new chief of the UNM Police Department, we invite the entire UNM community to join us for a [virtual townhall to discuss promising practices in UNM campus safety](#). The virtual townhall, hosted by the Division for Equity & Inclusion, will be held on Thursday, September 24, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. We want to hear your concerns about public safety and policing on our campus; please join us for this critical conversation.

Get Counted. It's Your Right.

There's still time to be counted in the 2020 Census—but the clock is ticking. [The deadline to submit your Census information is Wednesday, September 30](#). New Mexico has one of the lowest response rates in the nation, and I cannot stress enough how vital it is for every New Mexican to ensure they are counted. Census

data drives the annual allocation of billions of dollars in federal funding—dollars that are critical not only to colleges, universities, and libraries, but also to roads, childcare, health clinics, and vital programs like Medicare, Head Start, and block grants for mental health services and child nutrition. [Take a moment to complete your Census form and then let us know—you might just win a \\$50 gift card.](#) You have a Constitutional right to be counted; please do so.

General Obligation Bond B Provides Much-Needed Support for University Libraries

The November 3, 2020 general election will be crucial for academic libraries across the State of New Mexico—and that's particularly true at The University of New Mexico, where we rely on our libraries as an integral component of our distinctive status as a public research university. With the unanimous support of the New Mexico State Legislature, Governor Lujan Grisham approved [Library Bond B](#) that, if supported by New Mexico voters, will provide \$9,500,000 to public and tribal public libraries—including \$3 million each for public, academic and public-school libraries. At a time when university libraries are working to make increasingly more resources available around the clock for students studying remotely, Library Bond B will provide much-needed funding to support the success of students at The University of New Mexico and across our state.

Join the Grab & Go Salsa Showdown and Support the UNM Gives United Way Campaign

Giving back to the community is one of the hallmarks of Lobo spirit, and we are particularly proud that one of our long-standing traditions is our UNM Gives Campaign, which benefits the United Way of Central New Mexico. To kick off this year's two-month campaign, we're bringing back the popular—and competitive—[Salsa Showdown!](#) Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to submit salsa recipes, which will be prepared by Chartwells Catering and then made available in grab-and-go bags to be sampled and voted on by the UNM community. [Register and submit your recipe by 3 p.m. on September 25;](#) the winner receives one year of free parking, courtesy of PATS, while also helping to raise awareness for a great cause.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President