



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 23, 2020

Good afternoon, Lobo family.

As we approach the holiday season in the final weeks of what has been a challenging and remarkable year, I hope you can look around you, and within you, for things you're thankful for. I know it's been a long year, and we've been away from each other for most of it. Activities we once took for granted have become impossible under quarantine. We haven't been able to celebrate important milestones, like commencement or homecoming. Visits with friends happen remotely, and some of us haven't seen family for months.

And yet, we may still find people and things for which we can be thankful and in which we can find encouragement. When President Abraham Lincoln issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation in 1863, our nation then, as now, was in the midst of a national crisis, "a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity." Nevertheless, Lincoln urged Americans to "solemnly, reverently and gratefully" reflect on the year and look for good in the world—even if it was simply "fruitful fields and healthful skies."

This Thanksgiving, I'm grateful for all of you in the Lobo community, who have patiently adapted to new routines and realities, sacrificed without complaint, and diligently looked out for the good of our pack. You make our university, our community, and our state a safer, kinder, and more interesting place.

Stay Safe and Healthy, Lobos

With COVID cases spiking both in our state and around the country, we're conducting all classes remotely beginning this week and [continuing through the end of final exams for the Fall 2020 semester](#). That wasn't our plan even two weeks ago, so wherever you may be as you read this, I want to thank you for being so flexible as we modified our end-of-semester schedule in response to state health orders.

Despite a worldwide pandemic, UNM's COVID-19 positivity rate has remained relatively low thanks to your hard work and dedication. But we can't let down our guard, as cases continue to rise, and public health experts are predicting the surge to continue in the coming weeks. We hope that you each have a productive end of the Fall term and a wonderful break. Please remain vigilant about protecting yourself, your loved ones and others.

Celebrating Sarah Belle Brown Community Service Award Winners

Among the many things I am thankful for at our university is the dedication, generosity and compassion of the people who make up our community. It is always a pleasure to take the time to celebrate those who stand out to their friends and colleagues. This year's [Sarah Belle Brown Community Service Awards recipients](#) are celebrated for their impactful community service and volunteer efforts, emulating Sarah's ongoing commitment to helping those in need. This year's winners are **Robert O. Valdez**, Associate Director

of the Office of Community Health; **Amy Beggin**, Director of Compliance; and **Mirella Galvan De La Cruz**, from the UNM School of Medicine.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President