



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



August 9, 2021

Good evening, Lobos -

The Summer 2021 semester has only just ended, and here we are, counting down the 14 days until the Fall 2021 semester begins on Monday, August 23—the first time most of us will be together in person since March 2020. A few days before that, we'll be welcoming everyone back to campus with our annual [Welcome Back Days events](#) beginning Friday, August 20. Our campuses are already buzzing with activity as we make sure we are prepared for a safe and incredible return to full operations. I can't wait to see everyone again!

A critical part of making our return as safe as possible is ensuring every Lobo is vaccinated. Last week, the UNM Board of Regents formally endorsed my [administrative mandate requiring all faculty, staff, and students to be vaccinated](#) for COVID-19 as quickly as possible. If you're already vaccinated, please visit [UNM's vaccine verification site](#) to upload your documentation. And if you're one of the more than 11,000 Lobos who have already uploaded your documentation, thank you.

If you haven't been vaccinated yet, we want to make it as easy as possible for you. We've opened an on-site COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic in the Student Union Building (SUB) Atrium, where you can receive your free vaccine, with no appointment required—just walk in. Vaccination at the SUB clinic is available Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as well as on two Saturdays, August 14 and August 21. Lobo Village will host additional vaccination clinics on August 20 and August 23. COVID-19 vaccination at a number of alternate locations may also be scheduled through the New Mexico Department of Health COVID-19 vaccination [site](#).

We also understand that there will be some who are unable to be vaccinated; for that reason, we are offering [limited exemptions](#) to the mandate. If you believe you qualify for an exemption, you may complete an [exemption form](#), which you will then upload through the [UNM vaccination verification site](#). The request will be reviewed by the Office of Compliance, Ethics, and Equal Opportunity (CEEEO), and you'll be notified by e-mail if you've been granted an exemption. If so, you'll need to be prepared to receive periodic e-mail requests to upload proof of a negative result for COVID-19 (PCR test) for samples collected and tested within 7 days of the upload. For more information, or if you have questions, we're providing lots of information on the [Bring Back the Pack website](#).

Plenty of excellent science and evidence-based information is also available from our Health Sciences Center. I encourage you to explore their [#10to100 website](#), where you can find the answers to questions you may have. [How are vaccines developed, and how do they work? Are they safe to take if you're pregnant or nursing?](#) Our Lobo doctors and experts provide you with real answers, based on real science and real experiences.

Finally, please remember that The University of New Mexico presently [requires masks to be worn indoors by all individuals, vaccinated and unvaccinated, at all locations](#) on the UNM Albuquerque, Gallup, McKinley, Taos,

and Valencia campuses, as well as our regional site in Sandoval County. Masks must be worn in any indoor group setting, including classrooms. All students, faculty, staff, and visitors should wear their masks at all times in UNM buildings unless they are eating, drinking, or in an office alone.

Wearing a mask is one of the easiest things we can do to ensure I protect you, and you protect me. Thank you for looking out for our Lobo family and extended community.

### **MWC Honors Eddie Nunez with its Highest Award**

Congratulations to UNM Athletic Director Eddie Nunez who, in a surprise announcement this afternoon, received the [Mountain West Conference's prestigious Commissioner's Award](#)—only the third recipient of the award in the MWC's 21-year history. In his five years at UNM, Eddie has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, especially in navigating Lobo Athletics through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is a true advocate for the well-being and success of our student-athletes, and has garnered their respect and admiration, as well as that of our coaches, athletics staff, community, and colleagues across the country. I am delighted to see Eddie receive this well-deserved recognition.

### **UNM Doctors Lead Clinic for Transgender People of All Ages**

At The University of New Mexico's Health Sciences Center, we know that smart, compassionate health care means looking out for the needs of communities that have been neglected, overlooked, or misunderstood. For the transgender population, and especially trans children, it's not only about providing health services, but also providing a safe space and gender-affirming care—and Dr. Molly McClain and other UNM physicians are leading the way at [Deseo, a clinic for transgender people of all ages](#), based at the UNM Family Health Clinic in the Southeast Heights. Our doctors are not only providing contextual care to their patients, but they're also leading efforts to educate medical residents so they may also provide the same kind of informed and compassionate care. It's part of the Lobo legacy of providing the best healthcare, anywhere, and I am always proud of our efforts to bring help to those in need of it the most.

### **Lobo Staff Moving On, Moving Up, Moving In**

At the end of the month, we will bid farewell to one of our most dedicated Lobos when [Dorothy Anderson, UNM Vice President for Human Resources, leaves UNM to take her invaluable skills to the University of Oklahoma](#). For the last seven years, Dorothy has been a vital part of our institution and our community, both as a colleague and an invaluable member of UNM's leadership team, and I can't imagine that we could have so successfully confronted the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic without her institutional knowledge and compassion. We'll miss her energy and insight and wish her well in Sooner country.

Meanwhile, I am pleased to announce that another member of our Human Resources team, [Emily Luhman, will be taking the reins at the newly-created Office for Academic Personnel](#) within the department of Academic Affairs. In her new position, Emily will support the recruitment, selection, appointment, promotion, retention, and oversight of a diverse, highly talented faculty within academic units on UNM's Main and Branch campuses.

Exciting changes are also afoot at UNM Health Sciences Center, as [Dr. Michael Richards has been selected to serve as the interim dean of our prestigious School of Medicine](#), beginning on October 1 when the current

interim dean, Dr. Martha McGrew, retires. Dr. Richards, who presently serves as Senior Vice Chancellor for Clinical Affairs, brings both passion and compassion to this important role, and I am so grateful to have him leading the next generation of Lobo doctors as we begin a national search for the next dean.

Finally, it is a pleasure to welcome a long-time Lobo to a new role as [Victor Griego officially steps into the position of Director of Internal Audit](#). Victor has been serving as our interim director since March 2019, and I am delighted to have selected him to fill this position permanently. His experience and interest in advancing a rigorous performance plan for the University within a modern institutional internal audit program will serve us well as we move forward into a bright, post-pandemic future.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes