



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



September 20, 2021

Good afternoon, Lobos –

The first day of Autumn arrives on Wednesday this week, and as the days begin to get shorter and cooler, I hope you'll take a moment to breathe the Fall air, enjoy some of what our beautiful campuses have to offer, and ensure you're taking care of yourself as you prepare for those late-fall obligations and events that will come up on us quicker than any of us ever think they will. There's plenty to do across our campuses this autumn, from athletics events to evening movies--and if you haven't picked one up yet, be sure to check the [Fall Student Activities Calendar](#) for lots of inspiration; even a walk across campus or a workout at the [Johnson Center](#) is a great way to unwind. And while we bid farewell to the New Mexico State Fair yesterday, the [International Balloon Fiesta](#) begins in Albuquerque at the end of next week, giving our city one of the most magical and awe-inspiring skies anywhere.

Remember, too, that UNM provides plenty of support and resources to help you take care of yourself not just throughout the fall, but any time. With [a wide array of health, counseling, and prevention services](#), we take your mental and physical health and well-being seriously, so never be afraid to ask for help. We also offer a variety of dedicated support services, whether it's our [Women's Resource Center](#), [Veteran and Military Resource Center](#), [El Centro de la Raza](#), [African American Student Services](#), [American Indian Student Services](#), or the [LGBTQ Resource Center](#). We sincerely want your UNM experience to be as safe, healthy, and supportive as we can for *all* our students.

Enjoy the Fall, Lobos, and please look out for yourselves and each other.

## UNM Safety Week Underway

[September 20-24 is Safety Week at UNM](#), a collaborative effort between our UNM Police, Office of Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity, and various campus partners to keep the Lobo community informed about our safety procedures. Throughout the week, we're offering informational sessions on topics like safe spaces, stalking and identify theft, and I hope you can join me tomorrow night for our Safety Walk on the Main Campus. There will be a second Safety Walk, this one on North Campus, on Thursday evening. Ensuring our campus is a safe place to work, learn, and live is one of our utmost priorities; I encourage you to take part in the training programs being offered this week. Working together, we can create a safer campus environment for *everyone*.

## Join the Lobo Cancer Challenge!

Most of us have had our lives affected in some way by cancer. One of our marquee fundraising events takes place this Saturday, September 25, as all Lobos are invited to take part in the [5th Annual Lobo Cancer Challenge](#). Moving the event online in 2020—and again in 2021—hasn't dampened support or

enthusiasm for the challenge, which helps raise funds for [The University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center \(UNMCCC\).Register](#) either as an individual or as part of a team, and 100 percent of the funds you raise will go directly to the [program or treatment area you choose](#). As the state's only NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center, your support helps our health care providers deliver the best cancer treatment and care anywhere.

## September is National Recovery Month

Providing help with addiction means providing support for more than just the addicted; successful recovery engages everyone, from the individual to the immediate family to the greater community. September is National Recovery Month, making it an ideal time to learn more about treatment and recovery practices, and the dedication of the recovery community and service providers who make recovery possible. At UNM, we're very fortunate to have [our Collegiate Recovery Center \(CRC\) serving this population and working to eradicate the shame and stigmas around addiction](#). The CRC, led by Marni Goldberg, is a member of our Grand Challenge Substance Abuse Team and has been serving both UNM and the recovery community at large since 2019. I am grateful for their work on behalf of this vulnerable population.

## Ethics Institute Offers Medical Aid in Dying Series

With the passage and enactment of the Elizabeth Whitefield End of Life Options Act earlier this year, the State of New Mexico now permits New Mexicans with a terminal illness and a prognosis of less than six months to end their suffering and their lives. To learn more about the complex issues raised by this new law, the UNM Health Sciences Center Institute of Ethics is organizing [a series of discussions about Medical Aid in Dying](#). Health care providers, hospital employees, learners and teachers, and members of the public are invited to join in the discussions.

## UNM Newsroom Presents New Immigration Series

*"From its inception, however, the idea of the United States as a nation of immigrants, with its connotations of inclusivity and racial harmony, coexisted with the racial exclusions of federal immigration laws and policies that ignored the rights of Native Americans, disregarded the legacy of enslaved Africans, and excluded Asians."*

- Dr. Kimberly Gauderman, associate professor, Department of History

The lived experiences and scholarship that reflect the history and current politics of immigration in the U.S. are the very stories of the American character. The University Communication and Marketing team is publishing an ongoing UNM Newsroom series called [Immigration: A Look at the Issues](#). Running through October, the series spotlights issues, concerns, controversies, and history, beginning with an overview of immigration legislation since 1776.

As usual, remember that masks are required in all indoor locations at all times, except when eating, drinking, or in an office alone. Please remember, too, that [The University of New Mexico requires all students, faculty, and staff to be fully vaccinated by September 30](#), and that there could be [serious consequences](#) for those who aren't. Our vaccination center in the SUB Atrium is closed very briefly, but will be reopening again on Wednesday, providing free vaccination weekdays through September 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. UNM's vaccination incentive program also continues through September 30, so upload your proof of full vaccination at our [vaccination verification site](#).

Have a good week, and let's go, Lobos!

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes  
President