



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



January 18, 2021

Good afternoon, Lobos.

Welcome to the first day of classes for 2021, and I hope everyone had a safe Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I also hope that during yesterday's holiday, you took a moment to commemorate and reflect on the life and legacy of Dr. King, whose hopes and aspirations for us as individuals and as a nation still inspire deeply and resonate loudly. At the time of his assassination in 1968, Dr. King was a beacon for freedom, equality, justice, and love; 52 years later, and especially over the past year, we still look to his words and his example to help us find our way out of the darkness.

We live in tumultuous times. The year 2020 was one of uncertainty and unrest—and 2021 was not yet a week old when we witnessed, live on television, an assault directed at the very core of our nation's democracy. And yet, I find hope in Dr. King's assurance that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but bends toward justice." This doesn't mean, however, that we mustn't constantly strive to keep that arc bending; the journey toward representation, equal justice, peace, and understanding is difficult, never-ending, and sometimes dangerous. Progress, as Dr. King noted, is hard work:

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable . . . Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.

It is our responsibility—our obligation—as a university, as Americans, and as human beings to remain tireless and passionate in the name of human progress. We can do so by speaking out for equality, speaking up when we see injustice, getting involved in the name of freedom—and, as always, constantly learning, striving, growing, and improving.

Stay active, stay engaged, but most of all, Lobos, please stay kind--for love, as Dr. King also reminds us, is the greatest force in the universe.

Join Spring Welcome Back Days Programs

Students are encouraged to participate in [Spring Welcome Back Days](#) programs beginning this week. On Wednesday, UNM Departments will be virtually tabling from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Join the program to learn about the great resources UNM has to offer and be entered to win a gift card. Finish out the week with free Drag Bingo with Alexis Michelle on Thursday at 7 p.m. Student Organization Day will take place next week on January 27th.

Another Great Shot in the Pit

Beginning this week, [The Pit will be transformed into a mass vaccination](#) site for UNM Health officials to administer COVID-19 vaccines to the public. The vaccine will be administered to those who have registered with [the State's vaccination registration portal](#) — and if you have not done so already, I encourage all

Lobos to register as soon as possible. As New Mexico moves into [Phase 1B](#) of its vaccinations, some of our employees [who are classified as Essential Workers](#) may have the opportunity to be vaccinated as part of this early phase. Once you have registered with the state, please keep checking their registration website regularly, as Tier 1 employees may have the opportunity to update their status to be eligible for Phase 1B vaccinations as soon as possible.

I am grateful that we have the opportunity to make The Pit a site to deliver the COVID vaccine. Heroics have happened on the floor of that historic building for more than five decades, and it's an appropriate place for our heroic health officials to administer a life-saving vaccine. That's a shot worth taking.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President