



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 29, 2021

Good afternoon, Lobos—

I feel extremely heartened and thankful that New Mexico continues to experience fewer infections and fewer COVID-related deaths after what has been an incredibly difficult year of loss and sacrifice, as well as one of bravery and compassion. More than one million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered, and we have expanded into the next phase of eligible New Mexicans for the vaccine ([phases 1A, 1B and 1C](#)). NM Department of Health Cabinet Secretary Tracie Collins, who is also the former UNM Dean of Population Health, shared at a [press update last week](#) that New Mexico is the fastest state in the country for vaccination by population.

While our state's supply is, for the moment, still not keeping pace with demand, that is likely to change as more of the vaccines are made available to our state. Please make sure you have [registered with the New Mexico Department of Health](#), so that you can be notified the moment it's your turn to be vaccinated. And if someone you know is unable to sign up online, please help them get registered by calling 855-600-3453, then pressing option 0 and then option 4.

Please also consider registering with [NM Notify](#), a mobile phone service that can alert you to possible exposure to COVID-19, giving you the opportunity to quickly seek medical attention. For Android users, it's as easy as downloading an app; if you're on an iPhone, it's as simple as turning on "Exposure Notifications" in your Settings. [You can read more on how NM Notify works](#), and how registering your phone can help us more quickly and effectively slow the spread of COVID-19.

As always, I appreciate the continued vigilance of the entire Lobo community in slowing the spread of this virus for the safety of ourselves and our community. Even if you've been vaccinated, please keep wearing your mask, washing your hands, and maintaining a safe, physical distance. Together, we're protecting not only our pack, but our families, friends and fellow citizens.

Racial and Intersection Microaggressions (RIMA) Survey

The UNM Division for Equity and Inclusion (DEI) invites all Lobos to [learn about the Racial and Intersectional Microaggressions \(RIMA\) Survey](#). Earlier this month, a representative sampling of Lobo students received e-mails inviting them to complete the survey, which explores the experiences of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), including Asian and Pacific Islander (API), Latinx, and/or Multiracial groups, Persons with Disabilities, and LGBTQI undergraduate and graduate students on campus. Their responses give us a better understanding of places on campus where students feel uncomfortable or unsafe and help us design appropriate interventions to enhance an inclusive climate.

Surveys are due by April 12—and the more Lobos who complete the survey, the better work we can do to address these serious concerns. As an added incentive, the first 500 who complete the online surveys will

receive \$10. DEI is planning to hold workshops concerning microaggressions this fall, so please look for further announcements.

Four Lobo Students Win Goldwater Awards

What a thrill it is to announce that [all four of UNM's nominees for the Goldwater Foundation Award were selected as national winners](#)—the first time UNM has had all of its nominees win the prestigious award.

Goldwater Foundation Awards are presented to students who intend to pursue careers in the fields of science, math, or engineering, and are chosen based on their academic and research credentials. In 2021, more than 5,000 students from 438 institutions across the nation competed for Goldwater honors; our four UNM students are among only 410 national winners. Congratulations to Ryla Josephine Cantergiani, Anna Janicek, Abigail Pribisova, and Sophia Salbato—you make all Lobos proud!

Lobo Artists Explore “Other Names” for the Rio Grande

The University of New Mexico Art Museum is presenting a remarkable online exhibit that both commemorates and celebrates the Rio Grande, the life-giving spine of our state. [There Must Be Other Names For The River](#) is a web-based sound installation and virtual community space engaging the history, present, and potential futures of the Rio Grande. Visitors to the site are virtually guided along the river, where they hear the songs of vocalists emerging from different points along its 1,800-mile length as it winds through our state. [This project was developed by a group of the University of New Mexico Master of Fine Arts students and alumni](#) to bring awareness to critical climate change and water access issues. I'm in awe of the creativity and artistry involved in this extraordinary project; please visit the exhibit and celebrate both the Rio Grande and our amazing Lobo artists.

Mary Jo Daniel Appointed Associate Vice President for Research

I am pleased to announce that Mary Jo Daniel has been [formally named to the position of UNM Associate Vice President for Research \(VPR\)](#). She was appointed last fall as Interim Associate VPR by former VPR Gabriel López through a competitive process, and after a similar search will now serve with current VPR Ellen Fisher in the Office of the Vice President for Research. My thanks to Dr. Daniel for service to UNM, and warmest congratulations on her appointment to this new post.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes

President