



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



June 14, 2021

Good afternoon, Lobos –

Last week, I had the pleasure of visiting our Los Alamos campus to celebrate the first year of an exceptional collaboration that makes it possible for [students at UNM-Los Alamos to obtain a four-year Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering \(BSME\) degree](#), without obligating them to make the trip to UNM's campus in Albuquerque. Even better, this collaboration helps meet the very real workforce needs of a local employer and key partner in this initiative: Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

This is one of our most distinctive collaborations, made all the more remarkable because it was undertaken during the restrictive conditions imposed by a global pandemic. When classes started last August, two of the four courses in the curriculum were scheduled as hybrid, while the other two were entirely remote. But Lobos are determined – and with the enthusiastic support of educators, engineers, scientists, and leaders at UNM-Los Alamos (UNM-LA) and at LANL, I am proud to say we have successfully completed our first full year of this entirely Los Alamos-based program—and, in fact, are looking forward to an even more successful second year.

This is a true group and community effort, and it's a perfect example of the kinds of initiatives we can undertake at our branch campuses, where we can really reap the benefits of being embedded in the community. At the same time, our Albuquerque Campus and accredited engineering program are working in perfect synch with UNM-LA to help ensure we provide faculty and students with access to the support and resources they need for success.

This collaboration also reflects some of the most fundamental parts of our mission as a public Research 1 university. We are giving our students an amazing opportunity for a great education, as well as the potential for a great job and career. We are also meeting the demands and needs of a local employer, who will have access to a pipeline of graduates with the expertise and talents needed to hit the ground running. Working together, we are all making an impact nationally and globally, a local collaboration that can truly change the world.

And what a thrill it was to celebrate something *in person* again!

Reflect, Commemorate, and Celebrate Juneteenth

This Saturday, June 19th is the 156th anniversary of Juneteenth, the day in 1865 in which Union soldiers landed in Texas and delivered the news that the Civil War had ended and that the Emancipation Proclamation had freed nearly four million from chattel slavery. We mark this occasion not only to commemorate the liberation of our fellow Americans, but also to reflect on the progress that has been, and remains to be, made to ensure that Black Americans have genuine access to freedom, opportunity, and self-determination. Here at The University of New Mexico, it is also a time for celebrating the contributions of Black voices and Black

art to our wonderfully diverse New Mexican culture, and honoring the Black faculty, staff, and students in our community who make our lives and experiences at UNM that much richer and always more interesting.

As part of our community's Juneteenth activities, the City of Albuquerque is organizing [Juneteenth at Civic Plaza](#) from Friday, June 18 through Sunday, June 20, spotlighting Black entrepreneurs and artists, and featuring great music, Soul Food trucks, plenty of art and culture, and an opportunity to sit down with local Black leaders to talk about community issues. To RSVP for the event, [please visit the Facebook page for Juneteenth at Civic Plaza](#). On Thursday, June 17, our LGBTQ Resource Center is celebrating Juneteenth with an [online conversation with Laz Letcher](#), alum of the LGBTQ Resource Center and Ph.D. candidate in American Studies, who will discuss, celebrate, and commemorate groundbreaking Black Trans and Queer figures.

UNM Receives U.S. Defense Industry Cogswell Award

The University of New Mexico has been honored by the Department of Defense and the Defense Counter-intelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) with the James S. Cogswell Award, their highest honor bestowed on cleared industry. Of the more than 12,500 cleared contractors in the National Industrial Security Program, less than 1% are annually selected to receive this prestigious award. This is the second time in five years UNM has received this honor, and we are the only cleared university to receive the award in 2021. I'm very proud of this, as it recognizes that UNM is dedicated to protecting not only classified information but export-controlled information, proprietary information and intellectual property—which makes us a valuable ally when competing for contracts and grants. Congratulations, Lobos!

UNM 2040 Steering Committee Finalized

UNM 2040: Opportunity Defined, our effort to craft a multi-year plan to build the future of UNM, is well underway. My thanks to everyone who participated in the Virtual Launch and focus groups in May; the input we received from students, faculty, staff and the community is invaluable and will help guide us through this process. However, if you weren't able to participate in one of the sessions, please be assured there will be opportunities to engage in the fall.

As we navigate this together, our efforts will be guided by a small project team in collaboration with a larger steering committee. After careful consideration, I am excited to announce the [UNM 2040 Steering Committee](#), a group I am confident will help lead us through this process in an inclusive, thoughtful and deliberate way. As their work evolves, I look forward to sharing milestone information with all of you. The first steering committee meeting is scheduled for next week; in the meantime, you can find the latest information about UNM 2040 at opportunity.unm.edu.

Return to Campus Information Coming from HR & Save the Date for the Staff Town Hall

Our Human Resources department has been working incredibly hard to develop comprehensive guidance and information for transitioning back to campus over the next couple of months, and they will be emailing it out and posting it on the [Bringing Back the Pack website](#) later this week. For our incredible staff, please mark your calendars now for a Staff Town Hall, hosted by UNM senior leaders, which will take place on

Thursday, June 24 at noon via Zoom. More information and registration details, as well as a question submission form, will also be sent out this week. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the content provided by HR to inform your questions.

As always, make sure you're taking care of yourselves and each other. If you haven't done so already, please make sure [you're registered to get vaccinated](#), and [look for a location near you](#) where you receive your free vaccine. As we strive to #VaxThePack, we are very proud to be participating in the national [COVID-19 College Challenge](#) to get as much of our community protected as possible, and we are pleased to continue to make The Pit available as a vaccination site. The New Mexico Department of Health is also offering incentives to encourage vaccination, [including one-time payments of \\$100 for New Mexicans who either complete their vaccination series or receive a single-shot of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, now through June 17.](#)

Please also consider [reporting your vaccination status at LoboCheckIn](#). Tracking our progress in getting our community vaccinated continues to be one of the best ways we can ensure we plan appropriately, and safely, for an in-person return to campus in the Fall.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President