



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



June 21, 2021

Good afternoon, Lobos –

At The University of New Mexico, excellence isn't just aspirational; its pursuit is a way of life. Even as we spent much of the past 15 months working under mostly remote conditions, our faculty, staff, and students have continued to inspire and innovate, racking up awards, recognitions, and honors that reflect our institution's continuing commitment to outstanding achievement and exceptional service. You make us all proud.

Advance at UNM Announces 12 Women in STEM Award Winners

The Women in STEM awards, hosted by Advance at UNM in collaboration with the UNM Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of the Vice President for Research, [recently announced the 12 faculty members who will be honored with the 2021 Women in STEM awards.](#) Some of this year's winning projects look at new ways to reduce the environmental impacts of human waste; examine social experiences of people diagnosed with celiac disease; identify paths to improve climate change research to better serve affected communities; and study the health effects of acute sugar intake, including possible links to asthma.

The recipients this year are Miriam Gay-Antaki, an assistant professor in Geography and Environmental Sciences; TyAnna Lovato, a research assistant professor in Biology; Amalia Parra, a research assistant professor in Biology; Xiaoxue Li, an assistant professor in Economics; Sarah Stith, an assistant professor in Economics; Anjali Mulchandani, an assistant professor in Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering; Suzanne Oakdale, an associate professor in Anthropology; Caroline Scruggs, an associate professor in Community and Regional Planning; Melinda Morgan, an associate professor in Geography and Environmental Studies; Jingjing Wang, an assistant professor in Economics, Alex Webster; a research professor in Biology; and Lydia Tapia, an associate professor in Computer Science.

I am so proud of these amazing women and their thoughtful proposals that are enhancing our communities and improving our planet. Congratulations to our winners and my thanks, as always, to Julia Fulghum, director of Advance at UNM, for all the work Advance does to encourage and reward women in science.

College of Arts & Sciences Announces New Regents' Professors

[Three professors in our College of Arts and Sciences have been named as Regents' Professors,](#) honoring their accomplishments as teachers, scholars, and leaders both at UNM and in their national/international communities. Our three newest Regents' Professors, appointed for the term of 2022 through 2024, are Robert Berrens, Department of Economics; Jennifer Rudgers, Department of Biology; and Diane Thiel, Department of English Language and Literature. Regents' Professor is a special title bestowed on selected full professors who, in the judgment of the dean, and on the advice of a faculty selection committee, merit recognition for their achievements, service and leadership. Congratulations to our latest Regents' Professors for inspiring students, serving their communities, and embodying Lobo excellence.

Two Lobo Students Receive 2022 Fulbright Research Awards

I couldn't be prouder to announce that [two University of New Mexico students have received Fulbright Research Awards](#) for 2021-2022. As award winners, they will be taking their studies abroad for the next academic year. Congratulations to Emily Hayes-Rich, a graduate student in Public Archaeology, who received the Fulbright Research Award for her Archaeology project in Morocco, and to Brooke Barrera Sheldon, a 2018 UNM graduate in international studies and foreign languages and a 2020 Columbia University graduate, who was awarded the English Teaching Assistantship in Portugal. Last fall, the [Fulbright U.S. Student Program](#) received a record number of applications, making this the most competitive cycle in the 75-year history of the program, and I am delighted to see our students recognized with this prestigious award.

UNM Staff Town Hall This Thursday

As The University of New Mexico continues the planning process for its full return to normal operations on Aug. 2, UNM senior leadership and I will host a staff virtual town hall this Thursday, June 24 from noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom. Please join us in discussing our institutional plans for returning to campus and the direction for future planning as we hear from staff about their questions, ideas, and concerns.

In preparation for the town hall, the Human Resources (HR) department has developed comprehensive guidance and information for transitioning back to campus over the next couple of months. The information, which was sent out [campus-wide via email](#), is also available on the [Bringing Back the Pack website](#). The town hall format will provide for questions submitted through Zoom in advance and on the day of the event. Attendees are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the content provided by HR to inform their questions.

Assessing Health and Performance at UNM's Exercise Physiology Lab

In the past year, many of us have faced challenges related to both our mental and physical health. Having a baseline understanding of our bodies' physical health can improve our health, well-being and performance. [UNM's Exercise Physiology Lab](#) serves to support teaching, research, and clinical research facilities within our Department of Health, Exercise & Sports Sciences in our College of Education and Human Sciences. [They conduct research and exercise testing to facilitate optimum human health](#) and performance and are equipped to test all aspects of physical fitness and performance including cardiovascular endurance, pulmonary function, muscular strength and endurance, body composition, flexibility, and blood hormone, lipid, and enzyme profiles.

Additionally, our research facilities facilitate the study of the cellular and molecular responses to exercise and the physiological responses to exercise in extreme environments. The Lab offers [services to students, staff, faculty, and community for testing](#) – so if you are seeking to assess or improve your physical fitness and performance goals, I would encourage you to explore what they have to offer.

UNM Office for Community Health Connects with Citizens for Vaccination Push

As New Mexico has strived to reach its goal of having 60% of the state's vaccinated, I would like to commend the entire workforce of the [UNM Office for Community Health, which has focused its efforts](#) on personal

outreach in support of reaching the state's reopening goal. They have been a critical part of the solution by protecting our community, and their work to support the immediate health and wellness needs of all New Mexicans, under the leadership of Arthur Kaufman, MD, Vice Chancellor for Community Health, is inspiring.

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 can 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. Also, please 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