



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



July 19, 2021

Good afternoon, Lobos –

As we continue to strive toward a return to full operations and face-to-face instruction for the Fall 2021 semester, it is more critical than ever that we work to get as much of our community vaccinated as we possibly can. Late last week, The University of New Mexico rolled out the latest in our #VaxThePack campaign, offering incentives to all UNM students, and main and branch campus faculty and staff, who show proof of full vaccination. [For students, we'll deposit \\$100 directly into your account; for faculty and staff, you'll automatically be entered in a drawing to win one of fifty \\$1,000 prizes.](#)

Whether you're getting your vaccination next week, or received it months ago, doesn't matter; simply [upload your documentation of full vaccination at the appropriate place on our website](#) and we'll take care of the rest. As of this afternoon, I am pleased that more than 4,500 of you have already uploaded your information. Well done, Lobos.

Our goal is, simply put, to get as close as we can to having 100 percent of our community fully vaccinated so we can ensure our campus stays safe and stays open (recognizing, of course, that there are those who will not be able to be vaccinated for health reasons). That means we need to continue to encourage friends, family, and colleagues to get vaccinated, and provide them with the support and information they need to do so. If they have questions, [urge them to visit UNM's Health Sciences Center's #10to100 website](#) for answers and assistance--then encourage them to [schedule an appointment](#) to receive their free vaccine at a nearby location. Starting with the beginning of the Fall semester, we'll be offering vaccinations on campus to make getting vaccinated as convenient as possible. It's free, it's fast and it's easy.

Please do your part to protect our pack and help us celebrate an incredible Fall 2021 semester. Get vaccinated—we are making it worth the effort!

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Rep. Larry Larrañaga

Last week, I had the great pleasure of helping to [formally name the auditorium in our Centennial Engineering Center in honor of UNM alumnus and state legislator Larry Larrañaga](#), who passed away in 2018. Rep. Larrañaga was a longtime friend, supporter, and advocate for The University of New Mexico and a constant champion for education, community, civility and decency. His support and unflinching enthusiasm were vital to securing the funding for constructing the Centennial Engineering Center and completing the renovation of the Farris Engineering Center; it is more than fitting, then, that the space that now bears his name will be a place to cultivate and encourage the next generation of creative engineers and energetic leaders. We are certainly proud that Larry's memory is now a permanent part of UNM's long heritage, but we are even prouder that we are a part of his legacy as well.

UNM Health Leaders Honored by U.S. Surgeon General

For the last year, countless Lobo healthcare workers have been on the front lines of our state's pandemic response, selflessly tending to the health needs of New Mexicans in communities across the state—and beyond. Last week, eight New Mexico healthcare workers, [including several from the University of New Mexico, participated in a roundtable discussion with U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy and Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham](#), where they reflected on their experiences dealing with the pandemic, and were [honored by proclamation for going "above and beyond to protect New Mexicans."](#) As part of the proclamation, each will be recognized with a statewide celebratory day. The Lobo healthcare leaders honored by the governor are Dr. Michael Richards, Vice Chancellor of Clinical Affairs and professor of Emergency Medicine at UNM HSC, who will be celebrated with Dr. Michael Richards Day on Wednesday, July 21; and Dr. Laura Banks, a professor at the UNM School of Medicine and a leader at UNM's Center for Disaster, who will be honored with Dr. Laura Banks Day on Thursday, July 22. Congratulations to Dr. Richards and Dr. Banks—and we've got those days marked on our calendars!

UNM Salutes its New Army ROTC Commander

I'm proud that The University of New Mexico has been designated a [Gold-level Military Friendly School](#), with a university culture that values, supports, and celebrates veterans and active-duty service members from all branches of military service. We are equally as honored to be training young men and women to enter military service through our ROTC programs, which are led by some of the most extraordinary officers I've had the pleasure of meeting—and I say that as someone married to a retired Army officer. It is my privilege, then, to [welcome the newest addition to our ranks, Major Jeffrey Meinders, who will lead UNM's Army ROTC program](#). Meinders is an Army aviator who has been on active duty as an officer for 17 years and comes to us by way of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he served as mission commander for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency Open Skies Treaty. Welcome to New Mexico, Major Meinders.

Lobo Student-Athletes Break Records . . . In the Classroom

For our student-athletes, Lobo pride doesn't just translate into success on the field; it also means excellence in the classroom. The Mountain West Conference recently named its all-academic team for the 2020-2021 school year, and I am delighted that [247 Lobo student-athletes—a school record—were recognized](#). Congratulations to our Lobo student-athletes for their passion, commitment, and leadership. And many thanks to the coaches, mentors, faculty and staff that supported their efforts.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President