



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



*October 25, 2021*

Good afternoon, Lobos –

Having our pack safely back in person means we again can get together to celebrate accomplishments and commemorate our long-held Lobo traditions. Last year, because of the pandemic, we were unable to celebrate Homecoming together; while we successfully improvised a number of online events, nothing beats the real experience of getting together with fellow Lobos, sharing stories and celebrating our common history, all culminating in Homecoming weekend tailgate parties and cheering on our Lobos from the stands at University Stadium.

This year's homecoming events acknowledge the long year-and-a-half we've spent confined by virtual environments, visible only when the camera is on, and heard only when we remember to click off the 'mute' button. Now that we're back in person, there's nothing to stop us from raising our voices together—and all next week, we'll be celebrating Lobo pride across our campuses, beginning next Saturday at noon, with a cookout hosted by our Black Alumni Chapter in the Karen A. Abraham Courtyard at Hodgin Hall.

Great events will continue throughout the week, and on Monday, November 1, my husband Jeff and I will be hosting for the entire campus community our annual homecoming s'mores roast at University House from 2 to 4 p.m. I hope you'll join us, along with Lobo Louie and Lobo Lucy, for a cup of cocoa or cider, some games, and a chance to win prizes. We'll also be entertained by the UNM dance team, concert choir, and Something Major A Cappella group.

For more information and an up-to-date list of events, [please visit the UNM Homecoming website](#); some events, like the Faculty and Staff Homecoming Kickoff Breakfast, will require you to RSVP, so register soon. After missing out on in-person events for Homecoming 2020, let's make our 2021 homecoming celebration a memorable one. Grab your Lobo gear, and I'll see you next week!

## **Joseph Silva Named UNM Chief of Police**

During our year-long public dialogue about policing and the role of UNM's chief of police, emphasis was given to finding a leader with an understanding of cultural diversity, conflict-management skills, and problem-solving ability within a complex and community-focused environment. I am pleased to announce that following a nationwide search, interim Chief of Police of The University of New Mexico Police Department (UNMPD) [Joseph Silva has been named as our university's new Chief of Police](#). Chief Silva has served in the interim role since July 2020, following the retirement of Chief Kevin McCabe. Silva has served in the UNM Police Department for seven years and brings to the position a full understanding and appreciation of UNM's unique campus culture and our commitment to responsive, community-based policing.

Chief Silva will officially assume his new post on November 1 and will be hosting a series of informal meetings across campus throughout the fall and winter to provide members of the UNM community with

the opportunity to share their concerns, ask questions, and provide feedback directly to UNMPD leadership. My congratulations to Chief Silva, and my thanks to Lisa Marbury, Assistant Vice President of Campus Environments & Facilities, who chaired our search committee.

## Reflecting on Our Values for Compliance Week

From November 7 to November 13, The University of New Mexico will be hosting its annual Compliance Week, a time to spread awareness about compliance and ethics on campus. Our success and reputation as an institution are deeply rooted in a culture of ethics, and each year at this time, we take the opportunity to focus on these values and reflect on ethical leadership and decision-making by our faculty, staff, students, and community. We are proud to continue to uphold the highest academic and professional standards, and we strive constantly to embody our forthright values, ambitions, and responsibilities as the state's flagship university. This year, as part of National Compliance week, the UNM [Office of Compliance, Ethics & Equal Opportunity](#) is conducting a contest for the best quote, meme, image, or graphic that best explains what Conflict of Interest looks like on a university campus, or how we can best recognize or prevent such conflicts. Students, staff, and faculty from all of our campuses are eligible to enter—and there WILL be prizes—so please [submit your entries before November 12](#).

## Halloween Creeps onto Campus

To kick off Halloween week, [ASUNM Student Special Events is hosting a lecture by Dalen Spratt](#), one of the Travel Channel's Ghost Brothers, on Tuesday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Woodward Hall. The event is free, but you'll need to show your UNM ID to enter – and please remember that masks are always required while indoors, unless you're eating or drinking. Halloween masks, however, are optional.

And with Halloween 2021 landing on the weekend, we'll be marking the day instead on Friday, October 29, when all Lobos – with or without costumes -- are invited to trick or treat at my office, Scholes Hall, Room 144, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Pick up a Halloween treat while supplies last, and please consider making a donation to the [UNM Gives United Way Campaign](#), which continues through November 30, and provides faculty and staff with an ideal opportunity to give back to our community as we emerge from the pandemic.

## Bush Named Interim Chief Government Relations Officer

Another key change in personnel is taking place in our Office of Government Relations, where [Nathan Bush has been appointed as interim Chief Government Relations Officer](#), effective November 1, following [the decision of Dr. Barbara Damron to return to faculty full-time](#). Nathan presently serves as Associate Director of Government Relations, where he oversees much of our work with legislators at the local, state, and federal level. As we begin our search for a new Chief Government Relations Officer, I am delighted that our Office of Government Relations is in such capable hands. I'd also like to once again thank Dr. Damron for her strong and effective leadership of Government Relations during the last two years, and we wish her well as she gets back to her many projects as one of UNM's highly productive faculty members.

## UNM COVID-Safe Event Protocols

In accordance with the New Mexico Public Health order, attendees at all UNM indoor events must wear masks at all times, unless actively drinking or eating. At UNM events open to individuals beyond our faculty, staff, or students, event organizers may choose to require those in attendance to provide proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test dated within the last 72 hours. Those assigned the responsibility for

checking vaccination status should review the [vaccination verification training](#). I appreciate your continued diligence and commitment to the health and safety of our entire community.

Please also help us continue good public health practices (handwashing; staying home when ill; physical distancing, when possible; mask-wearing, etc.) across all our campuses. Thank you, as always, for keeping yourself and our pack safe.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes

President