



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 29, 2021

Good afternoon, Lobos –

Welcome back from what I hope was an enjoyable and relaxing break, and I hope you're ready to take on the final few weeks of the Fall 2021 semester!

With [final exams](#) only two weeks away, I know the obligations and the stress may already be mounting. Take some time out to make sure you take care of yourself—and if you start to feel overwhelmed, worried, or just need someone to talk to, UNM offers many options to support your mental health and well-being. A great place to start is by browsing the comprehensive range of [mental health resources](#) offered across our campus communities. Students wanting further assistance may reach out to [Student Health and Counseling](#) at (505) 277-3136, while faculty and staff can find additional help from [Counseling, Assistance and Referral Services](#) at (505) 272-6868.

Support services and assistance are also available from the [Women's Resource Center](#), the [Veteran & Military Resource Center](#), the [LGBTQ Resource Center](#), [African American Student Services](#), [El Centro de la Raza](#), [American Indian Student Services](#), and the [College Enrichment Program](#).

If you're struggling with coursework, [peer tutoring is always available](#). You may also reach out to [Lobo Respect Advocacy Center](#) if you need help asking your instructor for extra flexibility, or if you need assistance locating resources like the [food pantry](#) or [crisis help](#). Moving forward into Spring, your academic advisor can also help you make smart decisions about next steps with your classes and major.

Finally, please look for ways to connect with friends and family. Arrange for study sessions and social gatherings, either virtual or in-person, so that you don't feel alone or isolated, and take some time to recharge and reconnect with family or distant friends.

In short, don't ever hesitate to reach out and ask for help—and don't shy away from lending a hand when you can. Lobos look out for their pack.

Celebrate Hanging of the Greens This Friday

One of my favorite Lobo traditions, the [Hanging of the Greens, will take place on the evening of Friday, December 3](#). Hanging of the Greens has been a Lobo custom since the 1930s, and the tradition began with students gathering the greens from the pine forests up in the Sandia Mountains and using them to decorate our library and SUB. Since that time, Mortar Board, working in tandem with other campus organizations, have taken that tradition and turned it into something that gets more and more spectacular each year. To celebrate our return to being together in person, this year's Hanging of the Greens is more ambitious than ever, with more than 13,000 luminarias lighting our pathways and buildings, carolers strolling the campus to entertain at various locations, and a free screening of *It's a Wonderful Life* at the SUB Theater. Check with

UNM Mortarboard for [the latest calendar of events](#), and then come out this Friday night for what is sure to be a beautiful and memorable evening.

UNM Gives Continues Through Giving Tuesday

Our [annual UNM Gives United Way campaign](#) continues through Tuesday, November 30, in support of the United Way of Central New Mexico. Thanks in part to contributions from Lobos, United Way has this year provided \$3,392,619 million in impact grants, which includes support for their [Mission: Graduate initiative](#) to increase educational attainment, offers [Basic Needs grants](#) to support emergent needs such as food and shelter, and provides nearly \$1.5 million in [emergency COVID-related relief](#) to 130 non-profits. The final day of our campaign falls on international Giving Tuesday, which marks the beginning of the charitable season around the world and the beginning of the [UNM Foundation's](#) targeted support for Lobo academic programs, student life, UNM Health System, and Community Programs. The Foundation's initiative runs through December 5.

Please remember The University of New Mexico presently requires all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to wear masks at all times in UNM buildings--including The Pit--unless eating, drinking, or in an office alone. Please help us continue good public health practices (handwashing; staying home when ill; physical distancing, when possible; mask-wearing, etc.) so we all stay safe and healthy. While booster shots are not required to satisfy the vaccine mandate for fall or winter semester this year, they are available and are recommended for anyone who is fully vaccinated and meets the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) criteria. Please visit the [New Mexico Department of Health Vaccine Registration System](#) to check your eligibility and find a location--then update your status at the [UNM Vaccine Verification Program site](#).

I continue to appreciate your care and diligence in protecting your own health and safety and that of those around you. Our community education and vaccination efforts have made it possible to return to many of the events and traditions that we were not able to enjoy last year, but as the pandemic continues, it is more important than ever to continue to follow necessary safety measures.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President