



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



January 10, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos -

Welcome to 2022! I hope everyone had a safe and joyful Winter Break. As we prepare for the start of the Spring semester next Tuesday, I want to thank all of you for everything you've done, and are doing, to make continued in-person instruction and events possible.

As part of our ongoing efforts to protect the Lobo community, The University of New Mexico is continuing to require all students, faculty, and staff to be fully vaccinated, which includes receiving the booster, when eligible. For your convenience, UNM Hospital will be providing another of its on-site vaccination clinics on Saturday, January 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Ballroom C of the Student Union Building. The clinic will be open to all students, faculty, and staff, as well as to the general public.

We realize that the deadlines for receiving your booster will vary, depending on which type of vaccination you received and when, and that you may also have questions about the [State's new quarantine and isolation requirements for those who test positive for COVID](#), which UNM has adopted. We'll be providing more guidance in the coming days on our new procedures for ensuring our return to campus remains safe and minimizes the need for quarantine or isolation, so keep watching your inbox, as well as our [Bringing Back the Pack website](#), for updates.

With the start of the new semester, we also need all Lobos to upgrade the quality and type of masks you're wearing to protect all of our in-person operations. We presently require masks to be worn indoors at all UNM facilities but given the significant rise in cases and the apparent increased contagiousness of the Omicron variant, we're following the latest advice from scientific experts and asking you to upgrade to a more protective type of mask - a three-ply or better medical/health procedure mask. Further information will be forthcoming at our [Bringing Back the Pack website](#). And please remember to keep the mask over your mouth and nose at all times, unless you're actively eating or drinking, or in an office alone.

As always, we are continuing to take a data-driven, evidence-based approach to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on our campuses and across our community. We review the latest COVID numbers daily, as well as the latest guidance from local, state, and federal officials.

Again, my heartfelt thanks for being so responsive and vigilant about the health and safety of our community. I appreciate you looking out for our pack.

Norma Allen Named as New Controller

The new year marked the arrival of a [new Controller for The University of New Mexico](#), as Norma Allen has accepted the vital position as the university's chief accounting and reporting officer. She will assume overall responsibility for the University's controllership functions, including all main campus financial and accounting

operations, procurement, payroll and treasury operations under the direction of Teresa Costantinidis, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration. And if Allen's name sounds familiar, it's because she's been serving The University of New Mexico for 21 years, holding various positions in Financial Services and the Office of Planning, Budget, and Analysis. I am delighted to welcome her to this new position.

Take Advantage of Tuition Remission

Don't forget that each fall and spring semester, regular full- and part-time staff and faculty, as well as UNM retirees, are eligible for the [Tuition Remission program](#), which provides a waiver of tuition for up to eight undergraduate or graduate credit hours, or the equivalent of eight undergraduate credit hours for non-credit courses. Even better, your spouse or domestic partner may be eligible for up to four hours of UNM credit as well. As part of your New Year's resolutions, make 2022 the year you finally take that class you've been putting off "for just a little while longer." You'll love it.

Slots Still Available for Free Basketball Bench Seats

Our Lobo basketball teams have begun their Mountain West conference schedule, and there are still free seats available through my office for several home games. The Office of the President has several bench seats in University Arena in Section R, Row 32 for all men's games, and in Section M, Row 16 for all women's home games--and faculty and staff may sign up for one slot (which is two tickets) for any one men's or women's home game. [Check for availability and then sign up](#) for two tickets for the game of your choice as the Lobos make their way through their exciting Mountain West home schedule.

Legislative Session Kicks Off on January 18

Tuesday, January 18 is not only the first day of the Spring 2022 semester, but it also marks the [opening day of the Second Session of the 55th New Mexico Legislature](#). This year, as with all even-numbered calendar years, the 30-day session will be focusing on state budget and related finances, agency spending, and items placed on the legislative agenda at the request of the Governor.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with UNM policies, State Capitol building restrictions, and public health guidance, we regret we will once again be unable to host our annual UNM Day at the Capitol and legislative alumni reception. However, we will be working closely with UNM students, faculty, and staff to advocate on behalf of our [key legislative priorities](#) and to provide opportunities for further engagement during the session.

The [UNM Office of Government and Community Relations](#) (OGCR), led by Interim Chief Government Relations Officer Nathan Bush and in conjunction with UNM Senior Leadership, works diligently with the Governor, Senators, Representatives, and associated state staff to represent and defend the best interests of the UNM community, and keep all of us informed on bills and other activities that affect our students, staff, faculty, retirees, and patients. The [OGCR team](#) provides several ways to stay informed about legislation affecting UNM during the session, including [UNM bill tracking](#) and a [listserv to receive updates](#).

The University of New Mexico is actively engaged in dozens of other important legislative issues at any one time, including policy matters related to education, research, and health care in support of our ongoing

community service. To help us ensure that UNM speaks with one strategic voice, I ask that you please coordinate all legislative requests and associated communications with the Office of Government and Community Relations; doing so can go a long way toward cultivating greater support for UNM.

Remembering the Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King

The University of New Mexico will be closed on Monday, January 17 in observance of the federal holiday commemorating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I am forever inspired by Dr. King's assurance that "the arc of the moral universe is long but bends toward justice" -- and we must constantly strive to keep that arc bending. The journey toward representation, equal justice, peace, and understanding is difficult, never-ending, and as we have seen far too often, sometimes dangerous.

It is our responsibility—our obligation—as a university, as Americans, and as human beings to remain tireless and passionate in the name of human progress. We can do so by speaking out for equality, speaking up when we see injustice, getting involved in the name of freedom—and, as always, constantly learning, striving, growing, and improving.

Stay active, stay engaged, but most of all, Lobos, please stay kind--for love, as Dr. King also reminds us, is the greatest force in the universe.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President