



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



January 24, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

Last May, we began the work on *UNM 2040: Opportunity Defined*, [our multi-year plan for the future of The University of New Mexico](#). Over the last nine months, I've been pleased to provide you with updates on how things are proceeding, but we've now reached one of the most important and exciting parts of the project: we get to learn even more about your ideas for the future of The University of New Mexico.

A quick refresher on how we got here: After *UNM 2040: Opportunity Defined* was launched virtually on May 7, 2021, multiple virtual focus groups for students, faculty, staff and supporters were held from May 3-24. These events provided an early chance to share insights about how UNM can be more relevant, more visible and more competitive for what we distinctively do best. In October and November of 2021, the [2040 task forces](#) took the emerging vision plan to a new level of detail by suggesting key activities that need to occur over the next five years for UNM to carry out its ambitious goals and realize our loftiest aspirations. A month later, we circulated a survey asking for feedback from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and donors about the draft vision framework. Thanks to the more than 1,600 of you who [completed the survey and provided us with rich feedback and thoughtful insights](#), we were able to better inform our decision-making as we continued to move the process forward.

We also used the survey responses and other comments to fine tune our vision framework, revising the plan and amending our goals and objectives to be more reflective of your feedback. The resulting vision framework reflects this process, and I am so appreciative of those who have engaged with us so far. But if you haven't done so yet, it's not too late.

We are soliciting further community input through our new [UNM innovation management platform](#), powered by IdeaScale, a collaborative space for engaging with the entire UNM community. It's [easy to get started with IdeaScale](#), where UNM students, faculty, and staff can generate new ideas, upvote or comment on ideas, and provide transparent, real-time feedback to inform the process. While it's impossible to incorporate every idea or objective into our working document, your active engagement will help guide the further direction of this work and inform our ongoing priorities. I strongly encourage you to participate—and you might even find the IdeaScale platform fun to use. The UNM 2040 Goal campaigns will be open for innovation through February 7, 2022. As always, you may still provide feedback on the [UNM 2040: Opportunity Defined webpage](#).

Soon we expect to move to the implementation phase of UNM 2040, where champions and subject matter experts will serve as advocates for the next 24 months and coordinate execution of the vision plan, goals and objectives. Last week, I had the pleasure of meeting with the task force leadership and the steering committee to review the revised vision framework and begin discussing the next steps. I want to thank the members of each of these groups for the time they have dedicated to this important endeavor.

Even as our path as a university has been fundamentally altered and challenged over the last 22 months, I have never lost my optimism about our future as Lobos—and our role as The University for New Mexico. Watching as our faculty, staff, and students created more thoughtful and more innovative ways of solving problems, adapting to change, and advancing our mission has me both excited and confident about the direction of UNM. Moving forward, we're going to do great things together, and [I can't wait to hear what you have to say about our future as Lobos.](#)

## Adobe Creative Commons Opening in Zimmerman

Since 2019, The University of New Mexico has been pleased to be designated by Adobe as an [Adobe Creative Campus](#)—one of only 38 campuses worldwide. This designation, awarded to campuses that recognize and embrace the value of digital literacy in higher education, permits all Lobos to access the tools available from the [Adobe Creative Cloud](#). As part of our ongoing effort to make these tools and this technology available to as many as possible, [UNM will be opening its Adobe Creative Commons to the campus community on January 26.](#) The Adobe Creative Commons in Zimmerman Library will serve as a creative space where Lobos can access such resources as editing bays with Macs and PCs preloaded with the Adobe Creative Suite, audio/video equipment checkout, Creative Cloud application support, workshops, classes and more. The space, and tools, for limitless possibilities, are at your fingertips.

## Lobo Athletes Making Their Mark

While our student-athletes and coaching staffs continue to adapt to competition in the age of COVID, Lobo student-athletes keep making us proud to have them representing our university. Already this month we're seeing several of our teams in action, with typically inspiring results.

For starters, [our women's basketball team currently stands alone at the top of the Mountain West](#), with an eight-game winning streak, a 16-4 overall record, and a 10-0 record in The Pit this season. They're playing in The Pit again this afternoon, and I'm looking forward to their exciting streak continuing. Our men's team, under first-year coach Richard Pitino, were also in action this weekend, and continue to [play with scrappy determination](#) as they learn more about themselves, and each other, with each increasingly thrilling game.

Meanwhile, our Lobo track and field team [opened its season this weekend, hosting its first indoor meet in nearly two years](#), where it set an astounding 19 personal records, a school record, and recorded two first place finishes. The [men's tennis team also played this weekend here at home](#), competing against Utah—and one of the joys of living in Albuquerque is that we can often watch tennis outdoors in January! And I am so proud of [the grit shown by our diving squad](#), who'll travel to Las Cruces to take on New Mexico State this Friday, while [our golf team is in Tucson](#) today to open its Spring schedule in the Arizona Collegiate.

Thank you, Lobo Athletes, for your continuing class and sportsmanship. You make all Lobos proud.

## Nominations Now Open for Lobo Leadership Award

Among the defining traits of Lobos are a commitment to leadership and an engagement with the rest of the pack. In recognition of Lobo students who embody outstanding leadership and involvement, [the Spring 2022 UNM Leadership and Involvement Award is now open for nominations.](#) This award honors student leaders with more than 60 earned credit hours who stay involved in the campus community through participation in student organizations and service to UNM and the greater community. If you know of an

extraordinary Lobo leader, [nominate them for the award](#). And don't be shy; you can even [nominate yourself](#). Nominations are open through 5 p.m. Friday, February 11.

Please remember that The University of New Mexico requires all students, faculty and staff to be fully vaccinated, which includes making sure you've received your booster shot, when eligible. Once you have your shot, let us know by reporting it on the [Lobo Vaccine Verification portal](#). If you're not certain when you're eligible to receive your booster, you can find more information in our [Student Guide](#) on our [Bringing Back the Pack website](#).

Remember, too, that UNM is now requiring [all students, staff, and faculty to wear three-ply \(or better\) medical/health procedure masks](#). Complimentary masks are presently available for students in a variety of locations, including Johnson Recreation Center, the SUB, and high-traffic classroom buildings like Mitchell, Dane Smith, and Woodward Halls, and the Collaborative Teaching and Learning Building (CTLB). Thank you for your continued diligence and care for the entire Lobo community.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes  
President