



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 21, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos –

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a happy and healthy Spring break—and as you settle back into your second half of the semester routines, I encourage you to spend some time outdoors enjoying our beautiful campuses now that the incredible Spring weather seems here to stay.

And once you're back inside, this is your friendly reminder that The University of New Mexico [no longer requires masks indoors](#) for all of our campuses, though with some exceptions.

In alignment with [current public health orders](#), we are continuing to require masks at facilities associated with the UNM health system and HSC academic and research spaces, where close contact with the clinical environment requires continued masking. This includes north campus HSC academic and research facilities, as well as at the HSC Rio Rancho campus. And in compliance with local and federal guidelines, masks continue to be required on public transportation, including UNM shuttles and buses.

As we did when we implemented our initial mask requirement in August 2021, UNM's leadership team made its decision to lift this requirement only after careful review of the guidance provided by federal, state, and local public health authorities, including the CDC and the New Mexico Department of Health. Because of our role as the state's only teaching hospital, we have also taken special care to consult with our own medical experts to ensure that any changes in our health protocols would not have an adverse effect on those who may be coming to our community for treatment or services or those providing care. The University will continue to make its decisions guided by expert advice, while ensuring that members of our community have the information and resources they need to protect themselves and those around them.

As I mentioned last week, I know this is most likely welcome news. It is your diligence and care that has kept our community safe and made this change in our health protocols possible. But because COVID-19 and its variants are likely not going away any time soon, several important health-related policies will remain in place:

- First, vaccination is still required of all students, faculty and staff—including the booster when you're eligible—unless you have an approved exemption. Those with approved exemptions must continue to test weekly for COVID-19 and report their results.
- Second, please be aware that several large campus venues have updated their COVID-19 protocols, with some variations. So, before you attend an event at Popejoy or University Arena, for instance, please check with the venue to find out what's required for your admittance.
- Third, please continue to refer to CDC guidance if you are sick with, test positive for, or are exposed to COVID-19. And if you are sick, please stay home.

Finally, I know there are some in the Lobo community who will prefer to wear a mask inside or who may be advised by their health care provider to do so. The University of New Mexico wholeheartedly supports and welcomes this choice and will continue to make masks available for those who want or need them.

Please keep looking out for the health and safety of yourself and others. I appreciate all that you've done, and continue to do, to protect our pack.

### **Graduate Studies Dean Julie Coonrod Named ACE Fellow**

I am so personally pleased that Julie Coonrod, Dean of Graduate Studies and professor of Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering, has been [named by The American Council on Education \(ACE\) as a Fellow for the 2022-23 academic year](#). The ACE Fellowship is among our nation's premier academic leadership development programs. ACE Fellows experience a year at another university, developing leadership skills they can bring back to their home institution and apply in new ways. Dean Coonrod's customized experience will include working alongside accomplished leaders in higher education at a yet-to-be-determined host institution and then coming back prepared to apply her new knowledge and perspectives to advancing UNM. In nominating her, I drew upon her own record of leadership at UNM, her innovative talents and her passionate institutional commitment. This fellowship will give Dean Coonrod an excellent opportunity to explore new ways in which UNM can support our students' successful academic experience. A well-earned congratulations as you begin your ACE journey!

### **UNM Health Sciences Physicians Named as "Top Docs"**

As a leading part of New Mexico's health care system, UNM HSC's health care workers regularly provide compassionate and cutting-edge health services for citizens across our state. It's no surprise, then, that the latest issue of [Albuquerque The Magazine naming the "Top Docs" in the Greater Albuquerque area, has honored eleven of our UNM Health Sciences Center physicians](#). Our eleven doctors, and the fields in which they were recognized, are **Dr. Christopher Arndt**, Anesthesiology; **Dr. Robert Avery**, Ophthalmology; **Dr. Nathan Boyd**, Otolaryngology; **Dr. Laura Caffey**, Pediatric Pulmonology; **Dr. Robert Christenson**, Pediatric Endocrinology; **Dr. Nicole Emil**, Rheumatology; **Dr. Eve Espey**, OBGYN; **Dr. Michelle Harkins**, Critical Care; **Dr. David Martin**, Pathology; **Dr. Jason McKee**, Pediatric Surgery; and **Dr. Craig Wong**, Pediatric Specialist. (In an incredible bit of generational excellence, it's worth noting that Dr. Eve Espey is the mother of Dr. Nathan Boyd.). Congratulations to our Lobo doctors for this fantastic recognition by our community!

### **Anderson School Student Team Wins National Marketing Competition**

Preparing students for their futures through real world experience and exposure to top industry talent is part of the UNM Anderson School of Business culture. Recently, a team of UNM Anderson undergraduate students, advised by Professor John Benavidez, [took first place \(and a \\$3,000 cash prize\) in the TPG Ideal Career Experience national collegiate marketing competition](#), in which they researched and developed a multi-platform campaign to attract ideal candidate applications for a behavioral science analyst position with TPG Telemanagement, Inc. Congratulations to the winning team of marketing students for their "Shape the Conversation. Shape Your Future." campaign: **Deion D'Arco, Shania Jurado, Joseph Nechvatal, Lauren Roberts and Ayulia Ruiz**. Their outstanding strategic and creative work was also recognized by the New Mexico chapter of the American Advertising Federation (NMAAF), which awarded them three Gold ADDY

Awards, including one for the TPG campaign. Professor Benavidez received the NMAAF's President's Award for outstanding contributions to the advertising profession in New Mexico. Each of you defines Lobo success!

### **Anthropology 52nd Distinguished Lecture Series**

Since 1937, when it started out as *the New Mexico Anthropologist*, the *Journal of Anthropological Research (JAR)* has come to be a highly respected and broadly subscribed international journal sponsored by The University of New Mexico. This year, [JAR's 52nd Distinguished Lecture Series](#) will feature guest lecturer Christina Warinner, a bioarcheologist at Harvard and the Max Planck Institute, who is pioneering the study of ancient human microbiota. The series, to be held March 28 - 29, will examine how emerging research on microbes is impacting how scientists investigate the human past and changing how we understand human and microbial cultures today. Professor Warinner will also delve into the "archeology of the invisible," examining how recent microscopic and biomolecular discoveries are revealing unprecedented detail about the human past and expanding our understanding of ourselves and the ancient world.

### **UNM-Valencia Chancellor Retiring**

After nearly three decades of service at our UNM-Valencia branch campus, one of our longest-serving Lobo leaders, [Chancellor Alice V. Letteney, has announced her retirement](#), effective July 31. Dr. Letteney has been an educator for more than 50 years, and it has been a true privilege to work with her as she turned UNM-Valencia into a regional force to be reckoned with - making it not only a place known for a great education, but also one recognized for its innovative leadership in workforce development and training. Congratulations, Dr. Letteney, on your long and distinguished Lobo career and your well-deserved retirement. We'll miss you.

### **Lobos Advance to Third Round of NIT**

Congratulations to our Women's Basketball team, who have [advanced to the Sweet 16 in the Women's NIT Tournament after defeating San Diego over the weekend](#). With their record for the season now at 26-9, our Lobos have tied their record for most wins in a single season. They'll head next to Corvallis to play Oregon State in the third round of the NIT on Thursday at 8 p.m. (MDT). Congratulations, Lobos—we're rooting hard for you!

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes  
President