



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



April 25, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos —

Next Sunday is May 1, which also marks the beginning of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. At UNM, we are proud to celebrate and pay tribute to the generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and their descendants who continue to be instrumental in our nation's success. May was formally chosen as AAPI Heritage Month in 1992 by an [Act of Congress](#), which noted that the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States in May 1843, and that the transcontinental railroad—which was constructed largely by Chinese immigrants—was completed in May 1869. The AAPI community is literally a part of the backbone of our nation and remains so to this day. And this is certainly true at The University of New Mexico, where we are privileged to count more than 900 members of the AAPI community among our students, faculty, and staff.

I am also excited that this Thursday, April 28, in the week leading up to AAPI Heritage Month, we will be celebrating the [official ribbon cutting and open house for UNM's Asian American Pacific Islander Resource Center](#). This [welcome addition to our campus](#) is a special place where we all can work together to build a community and provide a sense of belonging for our AAPI Lobos. Just as important, the Center's support extends beyond the boundaries of our university, providing culturally relevant programs that cultivate Asian American and Pacific Islander leaders within our communities.

This resource center is a direct result of student advocacy, which took on special significance in the wake of several acts of violence targeted at the AAPI community last year. Their passion and empathy helped guide the process from aspiration to reality, and I invite you to come celebrate the center, and the AAPI community, at Thursday's ribbon cutting.

As we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month throughout May, please continue to consult the [AAPI Resource Center website](#) for information on other events. Meanwhile, you can already download [an AAPI Heritage Month Zoom backdrop, courtesy of UNM Health Sciences](#).

Fires Endanger Northern New Mexico Communities

The news out of northern New Mexico is horrific this weekend, as we have seen two enormous fires merge into what authorities are calling one "catastrophic" fire in San Miguel, Mora and Colfax counties. This is the second week in a row we have seen a New Mexico community devastated by fire, and our thoughts are with our fellow New Mexicans affected by this terrible natural disaster.

Teacher Residency Program Expands

Thanks to anticipated funding from the passage of New Mexico House Bill 13, which provides support for teacher residents in their final, full year of clinical experience, UNM's College of Education & Human Sciences will be [expanding its teacher residency partnership program for the 2022-2023 academic year](#). As The University *for* New Mexico, dedicated to improving the lives of citizens across our state, we never take for granted

that great minds are our state's most valuable commodity—and that our best tools for cultivating those minds are great teachers. In the coming year, we'll be building on the success of our award-winning [Albuquerque Teacher Residency Partnership](#), which has been limited to only Albuquerque Public Schools, and expanding the program into the [District Partner Teacher Residencies](#) to bring successful residencies to schools and districts throughout central New Mexico and Gallup.

School of Architecture Presents Harnar Awards to Regional Architects

UNM's nationally recognized School of Architecture & Planning recently presented its 2022 Jeff Harnar Awards, which honor the legacy of the late local architect and his groundbreaking work in contemporary design.

The program presents several [awards for excellence in architecture and design](#) and is open to students and professionals in the Four Corners states—Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah—who submit their work for consideration by a rigorous and independent panel of judges from around the country.

This year, New Mexico is proud to have four local winners among the prestigious list of honorees: UNM student **Kristina Naber**, First Prize, Landscape Architecture; UNM student **Brittney Sawyer**, Second Prize, Architecture; UNM Alumni and Fellow of the American Institute of Architecture **Jon Anderson**, Winner, Unbuilt Architecture; and UNM Associate Professor **Kristina Yu**, who took home the top award for the evening as the Winner for Contemporary Architecture in the Southwest, with her incredible project, [Sky Room Campus Park](#), which you can see near the UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center. Congratulations to these talented and visionary architects!

Run the Steps, Help AGORA

Raising money for [AGORA Crisis Center](#) is only a few steps away—in this case, the 1,668 stairs in University Stadium, which participants can walk or run as part of the [fifth Annual Stadium Stair Challenge](#) on Saturday, April 30. UNM employees may use Tuition Remission of \$150, which pays not only for entry to the event, but also for exclusive access to training videos created by UNM's Benefits and Employee Wellness and HSC Wellness. Come out to University Stadium this weekend—it's a great way to enjoy being outdoors and get some exercise while raising money for a great organization.

UNM Counselor Education Programs Nationally Recognized

As one of the most diverse campuses in the nation, The University of New Mexico will always be a place where all are welcomed, all are valued, and all are supported in their educational journey, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or gender identity. This is one of the reasons I'm proud that The University of New Mexico's Counselor Education Programs have been [nationally recognized for their demonstrated commitment to the promotion of LGBTGEQIAP+ awareness and affirmation](#) by the American Counseling Association's Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Identities (SAIGE). [UNM's Counselor Education Programs](#) have been lauded for actively recruiting and attracting master's and doctoral students with research and clinical interests within LGBTGEQIAP+ mental health and human rights, and I am pleased to see our programs achieve this prestigious biennial award.

Faculty-Mentored Research Award Established, Taking Nominations

As New Mexico's only Research 1 institution, there's always something fascinating going on in our laboratories and classrooms, especially when great faculty and students work together on innovative research that can change

lives and change the world. I was excited to learn that the UNM Office of the Vice President for Research and the Undergraduate Research, Arts and Design Network have recently worked together to create the Faculty-Mentored Research Award, which will be presented annually to an outstanding undergraduate researcher and their faculty research mentor, based upon the demonstration of a strong research partnership. Faculty award recipients will receive a \$2,500 prize, while student award recipients will receive a \$1,500—and both will be officially recognized during the Research & Discovery Week in Fall 2022. Nominations are due by May 20, so please submit your nomination as soon as possible.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President