



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



May 9, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

As we head into finals week for the Spring 2022 semester, I expect that most of our students are busy with exams, finishing projects and papers, and getting ready for the summer. Good luck on your finals, Lobos; you've worked hard to get here.

I also know this is one of the most stressful times of the school year, and I want to remind everyone that we have many resources available to help. [Student Health and Counseling \(SHAC\)](#) offers medical, counseling, and crisis intervention services for students, and [UNM Counseling and Referral Services \(CARS\)](#) provides counseling services for faculty and staff. Additionally, our numerous [resource and advocacy centers](#), as well as a variety of [mental health services](#), offer many avenues for guidance and stand ready to help any Lobo who might need assistance, advice or just someone to talk to.

For our nearly 3,000 Lobos who are [completing their degrees this week as our Spring Class of 2022](#), my most sincere congratulations, and welcome to the Lobo Alumni family. Your dedication and hard work—especially for two very unusual years of your college experience--are [truly an inspiration to us all](#). This is an exciting time for our graduates and their friends and families who have supported them along the way. Thank you for choosing UNM. Your time here as scholars, researchers, artists, athletes, and leaders has helped make UNM a place where each of us truly defines all of us. I encourage each of you to continue to strive for excellence, live boldly, and to apply your innovative spirit to the opportunities and challenges, both simple and grand, that await you.

Many of us will be attending college, school, and department recognition events in the upcoming days, culminating with the [spring Class of 2022 commencement](#) on Saturday, May 14, beginning at 9 a.m. in University Arena. I am excited about sharing these momentous occasions together, and I am also looking forward to hearing Mark Herman, CEO of Dion's, and a 1991 Lobo graduate, deliver what is certain to be an inspiring commencement address. For those who cannot attend in person, we will live-stream the ceremony on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and on UNM's [graduation website](#).

With chapters around the world, our [UNM Alumni Association](#) is here to help our graduates stay in touch with the friends they have made and connect them with the nearly 200,000-strong active UNM Lobo Alumni. Whether you continue to forge a path here in New Mexico or explore opportunities around the world, you will always be a part of the Lobo family.

A special thanks to our world-class faculty and amazing staff, who have challenged our students to be curious, courageous, and compassionate. For those students who will be returning, and to those who will join me here throughout the summer, thank you for your tireless efforts during the semester, and I look forward to seeing you over the next few months or upon your return in the fall.

## Health Sciences Librarian Honored by Medical Library Association

Our libraries play a foundational role in enhancing the learning and research experience at UNM through scholarly resources, innovative and creative learning spaces, and outstanding service...all in a constantly changing landscape of technology and learning modalities. Last week, at the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association (MLA), Dr. Jonathan Eldredge, a professor at UNM's Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center, received one of the MLA's highest awards when he was [named a Fellow of the Medical Library Association](#). Dr. Eldredge was hailed for his career excellence, outstanding contributions to the profession, impactful scholarship, and leadership. At the same meeting, he was also named as the recipient of the association's prestigious 2022 Donald A.B. Lindberg Research Fellowship, which Dr. Eldredge will use to support his work creating an open access textbook on evidence-based librarianship.

## Five Lobo Students Earn Fulbright Awards

I could not be prouder to announce that [five University of New Mexico students have received Fulbright Awards for 2022-2023](#). As award winners, they will be taking their studies abroad for the next academic year. Congratulations to Ph.D. students Korey Tillman and Noelani Villa, who will continue their dissertation research in host countries, and to our three recent and new graduates--Solana Armijo, Arthur Lopez, and Jane Tabet-Kirkpatrick—who will serve as English Teaching Assistants in their host countries. Last fall, Fulbright received a record number of applications, making this one of the most competitive cycles in the 75-year history of the program, and I am delighted to see our students recognized with this prestigious award.

## Lobo Volunteers Rendering Aid and Assistance

As a leading part of New Mexico's health care system, UNM's health care workers regularly provide compassionate and cutting-edge health services for citizens across our state, and they often do it on their own time. That's certainly the case with Vanessa Garcia, a radiologic technician for the UNM Health Sciences Clinical & Translational Science Center, who was concerned about our fellow New Mexicans who have been recently displaced by the fires in the northern part of our state and launched [Safe Space, a non-profit to help them find shelter](#). Safe Space works with a network of hotels in the region to provide discounted rates for the displaced, and also helps provide meals and other relief items. Vanessa's innovative solution reflects the spirit of service to our state and its citizens. Additionally, Byron Piatt, UNM's Emergency Manager, just returned from leading a month-long COVID-19 mission to support a hospital in American Samoa, providing critical medical care to our fellow global citizens while training care givers in providing an effective response. It has been a privilege to work with Byron as he has helped coordinate UNM's own emergency response to COVID-19 over the last two years; the team in America Samoa was fortunate to have his leadership and direction.

## UNM 2040 Officially Launched - Thanks to Our Lobos

I want to thank the many of you who attended the [UNM 2040 Launch this past Friday](#), either in person or [virtually](#). This is an exciting time for the University for New Mexico, as we ready ourselves to put our plan into action to meet the future needs of our students and our local and extended communities, which will allow UNM to thrive and be informed by and responsive to those we educate, care for, and serve.

I would like to thank our [goal champions and those on the executive and steering committees](#) who have devoted many months to discovery, discussion, and thoughtful contemplation of the future we envision for UNM. I am also grateful to every member of the Lobo community who participated in the process of developing our framework for the future. Your voices and ideas, as well as your advocacy and passion for the mission, vision, and values of UNM are reflected in this living roadmap, which will guide our work together over the next two decades.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President