



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



May 16, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos -

It was wonderful to celebrate and bid farewell to our [Class of 2022](#), as we welcomed nearly 4,000 of them into University Arena (The Pit) on Saturday morning as students and said goodbye to them early that afternoon as graduates and Lobo alumni. I saw anticipation and pride—and some relief—throughout The Pit on Saturday as students and their families celebrated the occasion. Congratulations to our Class of 2022! I hope you'll all take a moment to check out the stories of some of this year's [Inspiring Graduates](#).

My thanks as well to the countless departments across campus who dedicated untold hours to planning and preparing for the ceremony - it was a huge success. For those of you who want a recap, or who were unable to join the festivities, you can watch the entire celebration on our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

Leadership Changes at School of Medicine, Branch Campuses

Big changes are taking place across our campuses with some new Lobos joining the ranks of UNM leadership, and I couldn't be more excited about working together as we strive to realize the ambitious [vision, mission, values and goals of our UNM 2040 plan for our future](#). Following thoughtful and thorough national searches, I am pleased to announce several new additions to the Lobo pack.

At the School of Medicine, I eagerly anticipate the arrival of [our new dean, Patricia W. Finn, MD](#), who comes to us from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. Dr. Winn will serve as the fifth dean in the UNM School of Medicine's 61-year history and will assume her new duties on September 1. I am confident she will enrich the school's proud legacy as she leads our ongoing efforts to advance health and health equity for the citizens of New Mexico.

Out at our hard-working branch campuses, I'm pleased to welcome [Dr. Samuel Dosumu as the new chancellor at UNM-Valencia](#), where he'll take the helm on July 31. In his 30-year career, Dr. Dosumu has served community colleges across the Southwest, and presently serves as executive dean of the Pueblo Community College Southwest Campus in Mancos, Colorado. I am looking forward to having him in Valencia, continuing the great strides we've made in workforce training and economic development in the Valencia community, and beyond.

At our UNM-Los Alamos campus, I am delighted to welcome [Dr. Mike Holtzclaw as our latest chancellor](#), effective July 18, 2022. Dr. Holtzclaw joins us from the College of San Mateo in California, where he serves as vice president of Instruction and acting vice president of Student Services. During our search, Dr. Holtzclaw impressed the committee not only with his expertise and commitment, but also with his infectious enthusiasm for UNM-Los Alamos and the surrounding community.

Lobo Alum Wins Pulitzer Prize for Music

Some incredible news came our way last week when we learned that Albuquerque-based musician and Lobo alum [Raven Chacon won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for Music](#) for his composition *Voiceless Mass*. As a Dine composer, Chacon is the first Indigenous musician, as well as the first New Mexican, to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music. Chacon earned his BA in Fine Arts from UNM in 2001 and has used his unique talents to convey the stories and experiences of Indigenous people through music and composition. The University of New Mexico, our community, and our state celebrate this amazing accomplishment with pride and awe.

Global Accessibility Awareness Day is May 19

Globally, over 1 billion people—about 15 percent of the world's population--have some form of disability. [May 19 is Global Accessibility Awareness Day](#), a yearly reminder that digital access has become an everyday requirement, and that those with disabilities deserve a first-rate experience and uncomplicated access to digital services, whether it's an ability to read and review online content or utilize increasingly sophisticated web-based services. At The University of New Mexico, we recognize individuals with disabilities as a vital part of our community—and UNM's [Accessibility Resource Center](#) is committed to helping us provide comprehensive resources to our students, faculty, and staff to create equitable, inclusive, and practical learning environments. As part of our ongoing efforts, for example, we recently [enabled the Live Transcription service for Zoom users across all UNM main campus accounts](#), increasing accessibility for Deaf and Hard of Hearing users. It's just one of the [many ways we're continuing to work to make our campus and campus services more equitable and inclusive](#) for all Lobos.

Celebrate Lobo Staff During Staff Appreciation Week

The University of New Mexico is the size of a small city, and it takes thousands of staff members across campus working tirelessly to keep the day-to-day operations of the university moving smoothly and efficiently. [Staff Appreciation Week is May 21-27](#), so please take time to recognize the staff members in your area and encourage them to take advantage of [the numerous events Staff Council has prepared after a two-year COVID-imposed hiatus](#), from movie nights to museum tours. It is because of the dedication of our employees that our institution continues to be the University for New Mexico. On behalf of UNM, I want you to know that your work and expertise are appreciated and valued not only during this special week, but year-round. Thank you for all that you do.

Lobo Professor Named Fellow of American Bar Association

Every week seems to bring more news about the amazing achievements of our Lobo faculty, who make The University of New Mexico an extraordinary institution. Last week, I was delighted to learn that UNM Law Professor Sonia Gipson Rankin, who teaches in the fields of Torts, Family Law, Technology and Law, and Race and Law, has been [named a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation](#). This prestigious membership is limited to just 1% of lawyers licensed to practice in each jurisdiction and is conveyed only on those who have demonstrated the highest commitment to the legal field and the welfare of their communities. Congratulations to Professor Rankin for attaining this impressive distinction.

UNM Among First to Receive National Accreditation for Neurocritical Care

The University of New Mexico can add another nationally accredited program to its list of exceptional pro-

grams, with our [Department of Neurology earning full accreditation for a fellowship in neurocritical care](#) by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. UNM is one of only five institutions in the nation to attain such a major milestone and will be permitted to accept two fellows into its program each year. This national recognition has been many years in the making, so a big congratulations to fellowship program director Dr. Diana Greene-Chandos and her team for clearing the hurdles on the path to accreditation.

Lobo Junior Named Udall Scholar

Just last week, we heard the exciting news that Nicolas Estrada, a Lobo junior and UNM Honors College student studying political science and history, has been [selected to receive a 2022 Undergraduate Scholarship from the Udall Foundation](#). These scholarships are awarded for students for their passion for leadership and public service and for a commitment to Native American nations or to the environment. Congratulations, Nicolas; the entire Lobo community is proud of you.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President