



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



June 6, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

It's the first week of the summer semester and I'd like to welcome all of you who are joining us for the next eight weeks at our UNM campuses across the state. After two years of online or hybrid instruction for our summer classes, I am excited that we're back to (mostly) in person instruction. To the students and faculty studying, researching, and teaching abroad this summer, I wish you safe travels and look forward to seeing you when you return in the fall.

Celebrate the LGBTQQIA Community with Pride

June is National Pride Month, a time when we celebrate and support the LGBTQQIA community and allies everywhere, as well as pay tribute to those who demanded and fought for LGBTQ+ rights in the wake of the raid of the Stonewall Inn in New York in June 1969. UNM will always be a place where the LGBTQQIA community is loved, accepted, and embraced. We're very fortunate to have an active, compassionate, and supportive [LGBTQ Resource Center](#) that strives to create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, as well as a safe zone environment, for all members of UNM and our surrounding community. I am also proud that the [University of New Mexico Hospital is home to an LGBTQ+ Collaborative](#) that works with UNM HSC to provide similar support not only for our LGBTQQIA employees, but for our patients as well.

On Saturday, June 11, the LGBTQ Resource Center invites all Lobos to the Pride Parade, beginning at 10 a.m., and running from the intersection of Central and Girard to Expo NM. Please also consider donating to the [UNM LGBTQ Foundation Fund](#), which supports students facing extreme financial need, including access to safe housing or Hormone Replace Therapy. As Lobos, we see you, and we are here for you.

Lobo Biologist Discusses Forest Management, Climate Change with Senator Heinrich

Last week, UNM Biology Professor **Matthew Hurteau** was invited by New Mexico's U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich to participate in a conversation about wildfire science and the climate crisis, with an in-depth discussion of [how climate conditions relate to prescribed burns in forest management](#). Rather than continuing to rely on an increasingly outmoded modeling system for prescribed burns—a model that does not accurately reflect current climate and forest fuel conditions--Professor Hurteau and Senator Heinrich discussed [new and more efficient alternatives for safe and effective forest management](#), particularly given the limitations involved with the mechanical thinning of forest fuels. These innovative approaches to forest modeling and management are not only more economical, but also help mitigate the fire risk to local communities. We appreciate Senator Heinrich

initiating this critical conversation and look forward to further discussions on the management of our natural resources.

UNM Professors Recognized by Mellon Foundation for Research Proposals

Use the term research, and people often conjure up a mental image of scientists, engineers, or physicists making great strides in their chosen fields. But that's only part of it; great research is about changing the way we look at the world—and at UNM, it happens across disciplines. I'm proud that [three of our professors were recently announced by the Mellon Foundation as winners of the Crossing Latinidades Collaborative, Cross Institutional, and Comparative Research Working Groups and Latino Humanities Studies Grant Competition](#). Professor **Rebecca Schreiber** of the Department of American Studies, associate professor of Art History **Kency Cornejo**, and **Doris Careaga-Coleman**, assistant professor in the Chicana-Chicano Studies Department, are all winners of the grant competition based on the quality of their research proposals. Their projects examine and support shared knowledge creation, new ways of thinking to reflect on the current changing configurations of Latino people in the United States, and new research projects that significantly impact and grow the field of Latino Humanities Studies. *Congratulations* to these three remarkable members of our Lobo faculty.

Assistant HHS Secretary Visits UNM Center for Reproductive Health

We were privileged to be [visited last week by Admiral Rachel L. Levine, MD, Assistant Secretary for Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#), who toured The University of New Mexico Center for Reproductive Health to underscore the Biden administration's support for reproductive rights. Assistant Secretary Levine met with a team of doctors, educators, and reproductive justice partners, led by Eve Espey, MD, chair of the UNM Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, and center director Amber Truehart, MD. The University of New Mexico is proud to be a leading provider of quality and compassionate health in communities across our state and were honored to be recognized by the Administration with this visit.

Staff Council Presents Meritorious Service Award

Congratulations to **Gene Henley**, Director of Operations and Advisement for the UNM School of Public Administration, who was recently [recognized by UNM Staff Council with the 2022 Jim Davis Staff Council Award for Meritorious Service](#). As a former Staff Council president and long-time councilor, Henley was recognized for his significant contributions to the Staff Council.

HSC Researchers Address Alzheimer's in Indigenous Patients

As the University for New Mexico, we feel a special sense of connection to the communities and culture that make us distinctly and wonderfully New Mexican. That is especially true when it comes to providing quality health care for Native American communities across our state. I am pleased that [Lobo researchers are working to develop a culturally appropriate toolkit to evaluate American Indian patients for Alzheimer's and other dementias](#). This exciting project, which we are undertaking with collaborators at the University of Minnesota Duluth and the

University of Wisconsin-Madison, is supported by a five-year, \$10 million grant funded by the National Institute on Aging.

Again, welcome to the Summer semester. Have a great week and let's go, Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes