



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



June 27, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos -

These past few days following the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* have been emotionally charged within our community - many having expressed anxiety and outrage. As UNM's President, my immediate priority is to reassure our students, patients, employees, and citizens that our mission to serve the health care needs of those who are most vulnerable is stronger than ever. It is more important than ever to ensure that our health system - from patients to providers - continues to provide New Mexicans with access to resources and opportunities that support their health and well-being. While we cannot stand outside of a politically polarized environment, The University for New Mexico unequivocally stands for access to education and health care, and health equity for all our Lobos and the citizens we serve.

For those who are feeling anxious or just in need of someone to talk to, our comprehensive [mental health services](#) are available to all students, faculty, and staff. Please look out for yourselves, and each other.

## UNMH Parking Garage Opens to Better Serve Patients

Big news today, as we [officially opened the new parking garage at University of New Mexico Hospital \(UNMH\) this morning](#). Why get excited about a parking lot? Because we need it—anyone who has had to park at the Hospital knows how tough it is to find a spot to park—but more importantly, it's needed by the patients served by our incredible Lobo health professionals every day.

Since 1995, UNMH patients have used the West Parking Garage, which contains only 500 relatively narrow parking spaces. After nearly a year of construction, our new parking structure offers literally acres of parking, with 1,400 wide spaces, including spots for charging electric vehicles, and 105 spaces to accommodate visitors with disabilities.

The garage is only the beginning; the [nine-story critical care tower](#), which will help us provide even more services for patients needing critical care, is still under construction for another two years, so don't look for those cranes in our Lobo skyline to come down any time soon.

We also have some exciting new services available at our UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center, with the [opening of a new clinic dedicated to providing treatment for chronic pain and addictions](#), including the management of pain related to cancer and cancer treatment. It's all part of our ongoing effort to improve access to our compassionate care for patients everywhere. Together, we are truly [delivering more](#).

## Safety at Lobo Village

Like the rest of the Lobo community, I am deeply concerned about recent disturbing incidents at the Lobo Village apartments involving significant gunfire. Fortunately, no one was physically harmed, but there was damage to property and the incidents subjected our students to considerable fear for their own safety. We have been

working closely with property managers to increase security and ensure the safety of all residents, and we have made our resources available to the Albuquerque Police Department as they continue to investigate these incidents.

Lobo Village has increased security on the property, including adding additional patrols by private security and UNM police officers, and the property managers have also updated gate security, initiated security camera and pedestrian gate repairs, and imposed new restrictions on property access.

We will, of course, remain vigilant and encourage residents to continue to be aware of their surroundings and immediately report any unusual activity. The protection of our students and the greater Lobo community will always be a priority, and we will continue to work with the police and other appropriate partners to ensure Lobo Village is a safe place to live.

## **Anderson School of Management Receives Record Support**

As home to some of our most popular majors at UNM, our Anderson School of Management (ASM) has a long tradition of taking care of New Mexico's business. I was delighted to learn that [ASM recently received a gift of nearly \\$2.8 million from its Anderson Foundation to support ASM in its ongoing mission](#) to support students and faculty, drive local businesses and our regional economy, and advance the international reputation of our School of Management. This is the largest gift to date for ASM, and I know ASM Dean Mitzi Montoya and her team are grateful for this funding, especially as we look for new and exciting ways to effectively engage with the New Mexico business community. My thanks to the UNM Foundation as well for this generous show of support.

## **Dr. Ziedonis Holds Town Hall**

Dr. Doug Ziedonis, UNM's Executive Vice President of Health Sciences and CEO of the UNM Health System, invites the Lobo community to join him on Tuesday, June 28, at 11:30 a.m. as he hosts a Town Hall to listen to and learn from our communities. This is a hybrid event; you may attend in person at the UNM Health Sciences Domenici Auditorium, or join the discussion live [on Zoom](#).

## **Don't Forget Your Mask!**

With several of UNM's home counties classified by the CDC as having high COVID-19 Community Levels, masks continue to be recommended at our campuses in Albuquerque, Gallup and Valencia. As always, we are continuing to monitor conditions around the state, and around the nation, which may require us to revisit our mask protocols from time to time. [Please continue to check our Bring Back the Pack website for the latest updates.](#)

## **A Focus on Climate Change**

UNM's Executive Council had the opportunity this morning to hear from two UNM scholars about "The Rapid Emergence of Strong Climate Change Impacts on New Mexico's Landscapes." It was a highly informative but also disturbing presentation. I want to thank Les McFadden, Professor Emeritus in our Earth & Planetary Sciences Department, and Craig Allen, a Research Scholar in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, for sharing their considerable expertise with UNM leadership. We all must be informed of the rapid changes taking place in our environment, and I am grateful we have award-winning scholars doing work of such great importance for our future.

## **Enjoy Your Fourth of July . . . and Your Four-Day Weekend**

Next Monday is July 4, and I want to wish everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July as we celebrate 246 years of American independence—and remind you that UNM will be closed not only on Monday, July 4, but also on Friday, July 1, to give you a four-day weekend to celebrate.

No matter how you celebrate the weekend's festivities, please take a moment to reflect on our history. Nearly two and a half centuries ago, people from different backgrounds and cultures fought for the principles of liberty, freedom, and democracy. And we know that in many ways the fight for these noble principles continues. We all must remind ourselves that patriotism comes in many shapes, sizes, colors, and cultures, and even as we celebrate, it is important to do so respectfully and responsibly.

Enjoy the four-day Fourth of July weekend, Lobos, and I'll be back in your inboxes on July 11.

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

Garnett S. Stokes

President