



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



July 18, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

As The University for New Mexico, UNM plays many roles in our communities and in our state. With our roster of outstanding educators and health care providers, our responsibilities as the state's only teaching hospital, and our status as the only Research 1 institution in New Mexico, UNM is proud to serve as the ultimate collaborator, forging productive relationships with businesses, government agencies, and other colleges and academic institutions across our state, and across the region.

With "Advance New Mexico" as the [first goal of our UNM 2040 strategic framework for the future](#), UNM takes working together seriously, whether it's formal agreements with Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories or exciting collaboratives like [the "Hydrogen Hub," in which New Mexico has partnered with research-intensive universities in three other western states](#) in [mutual pursuit of a clean hydrogen economy](#). Our commitment to our communities doesn't stop there. Every day, UNM's students, faculty and staff serve as ambassadors to the community, attending events, speaking at conferences, competing on the field, and representing our institution with typical Lobo pride.

Over the last few weeks, I've been pleased to be a part of various meetings, presentations, and discussions with many of our neighbors and collaborators, from a terrific conversation with leaders at APS and CNM before the [Economic Forum of Albuquerque](#) to a presentation at the [Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce](#) with our vice president for Research and the deans of the College of Fine Arts and the Anderson School of Management. I'm also honored to be a member of [the New Mexico Council of University Presidents \(NMCUP\)](#), which meets regularly to discuss the ongoing efforts of the seven four-year universities and colleges that serve New Mexico. Later this week, I'm looking forward to meeting with the higher education subcommittee of our state [Legislative Finance Committee](#) in Silver City to share our thoughts about revenues and resources that impact all New Mexicans.

It is a privilege to be a part of the greater New Mexico community, and UNM will continue to cultivate relationships that help us better understand each other and which contribute to the quality of life, growth, prosperity, and advancement of New Mexico.

## **UNM Health Hosting Free Back-to-School Vaccination Clinic**

Even pre-COVID, regular vaccinations have always been a part of going back to school. The State of New Mexico presently requires a number of [vaccines for students to be admitted into child care, preschool, and public schools](#), and UNM Health is making it easier than ever to ensure school-aged children are [up to date on their routine immunizations](#). On Saturday, July 23, the UNM Southwest Mesa Family Health Clinic is holding a free back-to-school shot clinic for children up to the age of 18. No appointments are necessary—just drop by.

## UNM Parking & Transportation Receives Award for Environmental Mitigation Project

[UNM's 2040 goal of Sustainability](#) includes proactively reducing our environmental impact and protecting the health of our communities. UNM Parking & Transportation has been selected for an award of \$1,511,928 for their successful Near-Zero Bus Replacement Project proposal. This project consists of replacing six diesel-fueled shuttle buses with near-zero CNG engine equipped buses. The anticipated NO<sub>x</sub> reductions will help to improve the air quality in our community. The New Mexico Environment Department recently announced the award, which will be funded from the [Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust](#).

## Support Continuing Education Programs, Eat Locally

[UNM Continuing Education](#) offers Lobos countless opportunities for professional development and personal enrichment--and it also knows there are times to celebrate and to show support for its great educational programs. The [Street Food Institute](#), which offers an Entrepreneurial Food Management Course through UNM Continuing Education, will be [hosting its annual gala fundraiser](#), an opportunity to sample a unique menu made up of local ingredients and featuring desserts prepared by program graduates. The celebration takes place on September 25, but tickets for this one go fast, so [get them while you can](#).

## Remembering Our Fallen First Responders

I was heartbroken by the news this weekend of the helicopter crash in Las Vegas that took the lives of four first responders returning from assisting with the East Mesa Fire. Killed in the line of duty were Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office Undersheriff Larry Koren, Lieutenant Fred Beers, Deputy Michael Levison, and Bernalillo County Fire Department Rescue Specialist Matthew King. We mourn their loss, and our thoughts are with their families, friends, and coworkers.

## Masks and Vaccination Reminders

The University of New Mexico continues to recommend that masks be worn indoors at all UNM campuses. Bernalillo, McKinley, Valencia, and Sandoval counties are presently categorized as ["high COVID-19 community levels" by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). Please continue to [check our Bring Back the Pack website for the latest updates](#).

This is also a reminder that **all UNM faculty, staff and students who access campus facilities, housing, programs, services, and activities in person must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, subject to limited exemptions, before September 30**. [Please refer to our Bring Back the Pack website for more information](#) on the requirement, free vaccine clinics, incentives, and student, employee, and instructor guidance.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President