



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



October 17, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos -

One of the most meaningful rights—and responsibilities—granted under our form of representative democracy is the [right to vote](#). While every American is guaranteed this right, it wasn't always that way; for many in our nation, voting rights were hard-won and a long time in coming. Today, the best thing we can do to honor those who have marched, fought, and died for those rights is to take to heart our civic duty and obligations to our communities and cast our votes. If you are a student and/or a first-time voter, you represent the bold citizens of today and the future, and now is the time to demonstrate the power of informed political participation.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, and for New Mexicans, absentee voting began on Tuesday, October 11. New Mexico voters can request an absentee ballot up until the end of the day on Thursday, November 3. If you're not a New Mexico resident, [find out what you need to do to vote absentee](#) in your place of residence.

New Mexico residents can also begin voting early, in person, beginning this Saturday, October 22, continuing through Saturday, November 5. Any registered voter in Bernalillo County can vote early in the SUB at Louie's Lounge—but if you're not a Bernalillo County resident, you can find your nearest early voting location by entering your address [here](#).

This is an important election year, with plenty worth your attention up and down the ballot. Before you go into vote, you can request a sample of your ballot from the [New Mexico Secretary of State](#). Among the initiatives you'll be asked to consider are a number of our state [General Obligation Bonds](#), which come before New Mexico voters every two years. They are a proven and accepted method of funding brick-and-mortar projects throughout the state, and there are no tax rate increases associated with these bonds.

This year, voters will have an opportunity to pass [GO Bond 3](#) for Higher Education to help provide New Mexico's colleges, universities and specialty schools with the ability to ensure students have the tools and resources they need to be successful. Among the UNM projects represented by GO Bond 3 are the expansion of our [Children's Psychiatric Center](#) and a new [Center for Collaborative Arts](#) in Albuquerque, as well as projects at our branch campuses in [Gallup](#), [Taos](#), [Valencia](#), and [Los Alamos](#). Voters will also be asked to consider [GO Bond 2](#), which provides more than \$19 million to improve public libraries, public school libraries, academic libraries, and tribal libraries statewide.

Finally, as Election Day nears, chances are also good that you may be involved in a discussion about candidates, politics, and policies, whether it's in person, on social media, or elsewhere. No matter how you engage, I ask that we all treat each other respectfully. As Lobos, we pride ourselves on embracing and respecting our differences—and not letting those differences define us.

UNM Named Fulbright HSI Leader for Second Straight Year

For the second year in a row, [The University of New Mexico has been designated as a Fulbright Hispanic Serving Institution \(HSI\) Leader](#) by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs—one of only 43 institutions in the nation to receive this honor. This designation recognizes HSIs that have demonstrated noteworthy engagement with Fulbright exchange participants during the 2021-2022 academic year and have promoted Fulbright Program opportunities within the University. I am particularly pleased that, as an HSI, we can share our unique Lobo culture and experiences with universities and communities around the globe. It's an honor to again receive this distinguished recognition, and I'm very proud of the Fulbright scholars and researchers we regularly encourage and support at UNM.

UNM has produced 82 Fulbright awardees since 2010, including our ten outstanding recipients for the current academic year. Our five student winners for 2022-2023 are Ph.D. students **Noelani Villa** and **Korey Tillman**, who will continue their dissertation research in the host countries, and three recent and new graduates, **Solana Armijo**, **Arthur Lopez**, and **Jane Tabet-Kirkpatrick**, who will serve as English Teaching Assistants in their host countries. Our five faculty winners are Professors [John Barnes](#), [Tanya Ivanova-Sullivan](#), [Bridgit Lujan](#), [Sally Seidel](#), and [Shihong Li](#). Congratulations to all of our Fulbright recipients; you make the entire Lobo community proud.

Celebrate Lobo Pride During UNM Homecoming 2022

I hope everyone is off to an enjoyable start to Homecoming Week 2022! It was great to see so many of you at the Cactus Garden west of Zimmerman Library this afternoon for s'mores and cider, and there are still [plenty of great events](#) happening this week, including a [Friday pep rally](#) in the SUB and the Homecoming game against Fresno State on Saturday at 4:30 pm. Throughout the week, we'll be welcoming Lobos from across the city, state, country and world back to campus, with plenty of [Homecoming events planned for alumni](#). This time-honored tradition unites each of us with all of us, blending lasting memories from the past with joyous new ones of being together as Lobos.

Honoring Our Transfer Students

This week is [National Transfer Student Week](#), when we celebrate transfer students and the professionals who support them on their journeys. Presently, about 40% of UNM's undergraduates are also transfer students, which includes those who have transferred to UNM's Albuquerque campus from our UNM branches, Central New Mexico Community College (CNM), or from other schools around our state and across the country. UNM has a strong commitment to supporting transfer students as they transition into bachelor's programs and complete their degree, with dedicated orientations, advising support, and grant-funded programs like the Andrew W. Mellon-funded [NM Humanities Now!](#) Thank you for choosing The University of New Mexico; we're so glad to have you here.

Celebrating This Year's Outstanding Supervisors

At the heart of The University of New Mexico's long-standing mission to provide students with a world-class education, conduct top-tier research, and deliver quality, compassionate health care are our extraordinary and talented employees. Our outstanding staff make every day memorable and successful. This afternoon,

I had the pleasure of helping to honor our three Outstanding Supervisors of 2022 for their extraordinary service to UNM and the Lobo community. This year's selection was especially tough, as there were a record-breaking 121 nominations.

I am delighted to announce that this year's honorees are **Alicia Solano**, Senior Director, VP Office for Institutional Support Services; **Donna Sedillo**, Senior Program Manager, Clinical & Translational Science Center; and **Jeanette Acosta-Fresquez**, Strategic Project Director, Project ECHO. My thanks to UNM Staff Council for its continued leadership in organizing this special award, and my warmest congratulations to this year's winners, each an inspiration to us all.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President