



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



October 31, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

Since 1986, November has been designated as [National American Indian Heritage Month](#), a time for our nation to celebrate and recognize the significant contributions the original inhabitants of America have had on the United States. At The University of New Mexico, we honor our deep American Indian roots year-round, as a foundational part of our distinctive university culture and proud heritage as Lobos. [We gratefully acknowledge and recognize our history.](#)

UNM is proud to be home to faculty, staff, and students from our state's 23 tribal nations, including 19 Pueblos, 3 Apache Tribes and the Navajo Nation in New Mexico—as well as many from tribes beyond the borders of our state. We are truly fortunate to have the leadership of Pamela Agoyo and her team at UNM's [American Indian Student Services \(AISS\)](#). For four decades, AISS has been supporting Native American students, serving as UNM's liaison—both virtual and in-person— with students, tribal and community colleges, tribal governments, and other tribal education programs. This November, AISS will be helping to coordinate and celebrate Native American Heritage Month across our campuses; I encourage you to [check the AISS](#) website regularly for updates as events are added throughout the month.

We are also pleased to be among a small number of institutions in the nation to offer [a full range of degrees in Native American Studies](#), providing an education in the Native experience of Indigenous peoples and leaning into our own complex history and intercultural heritage of New Mexico and the United States. The University of New Mexico Press also features countless titles [devoted to the American Indian experience and plenty of books by Native American authors.](#)

We proudly celebrate this part of our heritage as Lobos and honor the extraordinary Native Americans that are a vital and vibrant part of our community, our state, and our nation.

Celebrating Our Culture of Ethics During National Compliance Week

From November 7 to November 11, [The University of New Mexico will be hosting its annual Compliance Week](#), a time to spread awareness about compliance and ethics on campus. Our success and reputation as an institution are deeply rooted in a culture of ethics, and each year at this time, we take the opportunity to focus on these values and reflect on ethical leadership and decision-making by our faculty, staff, students, and community. This year's events kick off early, with a compliance-themed scavenger hunt this Thursday that continues through next Friday, followed by a week of opportunities to learn more about compliance, attend seminars, and visit an open house at the Main Campus Research Compliance Office. The UNM [Office](#)

[of Compliance, Ethics & Equal Opportunity](#) and [Health Systems Compliance office](#) will also jointly host a number of virtual events throughout the week, including sessions on Clery, equal opportunity, data security, and Title IX.

Lobo Research Team Awarded \$3.3M to Model Climate Change

Consistent with our role as New Mexico's only Research 1 institution and reflecting the UNM [2040 goal of long-term sustainability](#), Lobo researchers are constantly taking on some of our toughest challenges—including those critical issues associated with the changing climate of our planet. Late last week, I was delighted to learn that Deborah Sulsky, Professor Emerita in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, [received \\$3.3 million in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\)](#) as part of DOE's five-year effort to improve its Energy Exascale Earth System Model, a comprehensive model of our planet's climate system. Congratulations to Professor Sulsky and her team for their leadership in this exciting initiative that is changing the way we look at our planet.

Lobos Clinch Several Mountain West Titles

It's been an exciting week for Lobo Nation as our student-athletes continued to display their usual grit, determination, and class as they secured more Mountain West Conference titles for UNM. Congratulations to our Women's Soccer Team, who rode their fifth consecutive shutout into their [third consecutive Mountain West title](#) as well as a first-round bye in the Mountain West tournament, currently underway at our Lobo Soccerplex. And last Friday morning, our Women's Cross-Country team [clinched an incredible fifteenth straight Mountain West conference championship title](#), with Lobo runner Amelia Mazza-Downie earning back-to-back titles. What a remarkable season it's been for our soccer and cross-country teams; congratulations to all student-athletes, coaches, trainers, and support staff on your incredible accomplishments.

Lobo Leader Honored by NM Hispanic Heritage Committee

Dr. Valerie Romero-Leggott, HSC Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, was recently honored by the New Mexico Hispanic Heritage Committee, which presented her with the 2022 Corazon de Cultura Award for Leadership. Dr. Romero-Leggott was praised for her commitment and ongoing efforts on behalf of New Mexicans and the Hispanic culture. Congratulations to Dr. Romero-Leggott on this well-deserved recognition and representing The University for New Mexico.

Gerald May Award Nominations Due November 7

Do you know of a member of our UNM staff who has made a significant contribution to The University of New Mexico and the Lobo community? Someone who inspires you with their leadership, vision, empathy, and enthusiasm? If so, I encourage you to [nominate them for the Gerald W. May Outstanding Staff Award](#). Since 1994, Staff Council has been recognizing outstanding staff members with this prestigious award, created, and funded by former UNM President Gerald May in 1990, with additional funding from the Regents' Endowment Fund. Staff Council will review the nominees and submit the final recommendations to me, where I have the honor of choosing the three award winners. Nominations can come from faculty, staff and

students, but the deadline is next Monday, November 7, at 5 p.m. so please [get those nominations in as soon as possible.](#)

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President