



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 14, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

Thank you, New Mexico.

Last week, the voters of [New Mexico approved three General Obligation Bonds](#), totaling nearly \$260 million, for the construction or improvement of senior centers, libraries, and facilities for colleges and universities. [General Obligation \(GO\) bonds](#) come before the voters of our state every two years and are a proven and accepted method of funding bricks-and-mortar projects in communities across our state. Even better, there are no tax increases associated with these bonds.

This year, GO Bond 3 was particularly important to The University of New Mexico—and to all colleges, universities, and specialty schools in our state--as it provided more than \$215 million to fund higher education projects statewide. With the passage of GO Bond 3, UNM will receive approximately \$89 million that we can use on exciting projects across our campuses—projects that benefit not just Lobos, but all New Mexicans.

On our Albuquerque campus, these funds will be used in the much-needed expansion of the [UNM Children's Psychiatric Center](#) to ensure we continue to provide top-tier services at the only center in the state that cares for children with serious emotional disturbances—regardless of a family's ability to pay. And actualizing the proposed [Center for Collaborative Arts and Technology](#) (CCAT), a singular home for our College of Fine Arts, which presently sprawls across 13 buildings, will allow us and our students to grow and have the resources they need to be successful, while also serving as an anchor for the ever-burgeoning New Mexico arts community.

We're also pleased to use this funding to improve facilities at our four branch campuses, including [improvements to Gurley Hall at UNM-Gallup](#), [renovation of Fred Peralta Hall at UNM-Taos](#), upgrading [safety and energy efficiency features at UNM-Los Alamos](#), and [replacing roofs and installing solar panels at UNM-Valencia](#).

The passage of [GO Bond 2 for libraries](#) means that \$6 million will be shared across our state's institutions of higher education, supplying critical resources to our scholars and researchers, including acquisition and electronic access to databases and other study tools.

None of these projects would be possible without the thoughtful support of New Mexico's voters and taxpayers, who have entrusted us with the responsibility of using these funds to expand access to education and services, improve the campus and community experience, and change lives for the better across our state. We are grateful for your support.

## **Celebrating International Education Week**

The week of November 14-18 is [International Education Week](#), and the [UNM Global Education Office](#) (GEO) invites all students, staff and faculty to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. UNM is proud to have been [designated as a Fulbright HSI Leader](#) for a second consecutive year in recognition of our noteworthy engagement with the Fulbright Program, the educational exchange program of the U.S. government, and we were similarly pleased to serve as the first host of the hybrid [International Association for College Admission Counseling conference](#) in July. The [UNM Global Education Office will be celebrating International Education Week](#) with virtual tours of museums and historic sites from around the planet, dance and language classes, lectures, film screenings, and much more. Take a week to take yourself around the world.

## **UNM Sandoval Launches Peer-to-Peer Substance Use Counseling**

UNM's Health Sciences Center is constantly [delivering more](#) to help improve the lives of those who need help the most. Recently, the University of New Mexico's Sandoval Regional Medical Center (SRMC) received a \$1.5 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to [develop and implement a peer support program addressing substance use disorders](#) in rural New Mexico communities. This innovative approach to patient care connects patients with others who relate through a similar lived experience and shared language and provides resources targeted to rural and tribal communities, which have their own unique challenges. I am grateful to U.S. Senator Ben Ray Lujan for his leadership in directing these much-needed resources to our health care providers at SRMC, and we extend our appreciation to the members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation who supported this request for UNM in the FY22 appropriations.

## **Lobo Researchers Preserve Indigenous Language, Honor Traditions**

As we continue to celebrate Native American Heritage Month at UNM, I am constantly inspired by the new and innovative ways our Lobo researchers, faculty, staff, and students are working to preserve and honor Indigenous language, culture, and traditions.

With the help of a \$250,000 grant from the New Mexico Higher Education Department, The University of New Mexico's Department of Linguistics and Lobo Language Acquisition Lab is launching the [nation's first virtual Indigenous Child Language Research Center](#) to document Indigenous language development, with a strong focus on producing Navajo speakers at perhaps the most crucial period of time for language acquisition: childhood. Ideally, what we learn will help researchers support and inform pedagogical approaches to reverse Indigenous language loss in New Mexico.

Later this week, several UNM organizations will jointly host the presentation, ["Diné/Navajo Stories about Death, the Afterlife, Grief and Renewal,"](#) in which [Luce Fellow Steve A. Darden](#) will share his research on Diné traditional concepts around death, the afterlife, and burials in a presentation. This [one-of-a-kind event](#) takes place on Thursday, November 17 at the UNM School of Law from 4 to 6 p.m.

## **Critical Care Tower Includes New Native American Health Services Office**

For 80 years, UNM Hospital (UNMH) has proudly served New Mexico's pueblos, tribes, and Native nations. As the hospital expands its services into the new Critical Care Tower (CCT), UNMH will continue its commitment

to our state's Indigenous people by [opening a second Native American Health Services \(NAHS\) office on Level I of the CCT](#). Similar to its original office, the new NAHS will focus on facilitating the care of Native Americans by serving as patient care coordinators and community liaisons. It is our privilege to continue to support and care for the Native communities who have been timeless stewards of our state.

### **First ACE Awards Presented as Part of Compliance Week**

Last week's Compliance Week advanced the theme of ACE—Advancing Compliance and Ethics—and this week, in recognition of Lobos across our campuses who have embodied the principles of ACE, [UNM's Compliance, Ethics & Equal Opportunity Office \(CEEEO\) is presenting its very first ACE awards](#). The following four awardees were chosen for their contributions that enhance and promote a healthy, ethical, and compliant working and learning environment at UNM: **Dr. Barbara Rodriguez**, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; **Amy Beggin**, Associate Athletic Director for Compliance/Athletics Deputy Title IX Coordinator; **Dr. Angela Catena**, UNM Title IX Coordinator; and **Jeff Gassaway**, Information Security Officer. Congratulations to the winners of the inaugural ACE awards.

### **Masks Now Recommended Across Most Campuses**

Although we're finding ways to adapt to the presence of COVID in our lives, it is disappointing to realize once again that it hasn't gone away. Several of UNM's home counties—Bernalillo, Los Alamos, McKinley, and Taos counties—have recently been [classified by the CDC as having high COVID-19 Community Levels](#). Therefore, masks are currently recommended indoors at UNM's Main Campus, UNM-Los Alamos, UNM-Gallup, and UNM-Taos. As always, we continue to monitor conditions around the state, and around the nation, which may require us to revisit our mask protocols from time to time.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President