



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 28, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos –

Welcome back from what I know was a much-needed break. I hope you were able to take some time for yourself over the long weekend to recharge as we begin the final weeks of the Fall 2022 semester.

Given the events of the past weeks, however, I know these are still very difficult times; with the additional stress and excitement of final exams and graduation, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed. Should you need someone to talk to, I hope you'll reach out to any of the appropriate [support services](#) we offer here at UNM.

We are presently considering several ways to support our campus and community, including the formation of a campus response team, as well as a number of campus events where we can support and talk with each other. Campus safety, which includes thinking about the way we interact with neighborhoods beyond our campus, will continue to be a major topic of conversation.

We must also keep at top of mind the way in which we interact with each other. At UNM, we take pride in preparing our students for an increasingly complex world. We are educating the next generation of leaders and innovators and striving to provide the highest quality educational experience in a healthy living and learning environment—all of which are fundamental for student success. I want us to remember our core values of inclusion, distinction, collaboration and public service as indispensable touchstones to navigate through the challenging and stirring times we live in. It is here that kindness, community, and intellectual fortitude elevate us above the hateful, bigoted and petty, especially when opinions are deeply divided and passions are heightened to an extreme.

In this spirit, I ask that we work together to create and cultivate a safe, caring, and inclusive community by learning from experiences, cultures, histories, values, beliefs, and views that differ, sometimes significantly, from our own. My sincere hope is that as perspectives evolve and grow within our intellectual and social groups, our energy and actions will help to heal and strengthen our community.

A great example of healing together is a luminaria-making event commemorating the lives lost at Club Q, hosted by our own LGBTQ Resource Center on Wednesday, November 30 at 7 p.m. The Center will provide bags, markers, paints, and other supplies for the luminarias to be used for our community vigil on Monday, December 5 at 5 p.m., at the LGBTQ Resource Center. Food will be provided with vegan options available. The LGBTQ Resource Center is located at 1919 Las Lomas Road. For more information, please [contact Frankie Flores](#) or call the Center at (505) 277-LGBT (5428).

Embrace the Spirit of Giving Tuesday

The Lobo spirit of gratitude and of giving is reflected in the many ways in which we touch the lives of those around us, both through our mission as an institution and the individual contributions of each of us. We

believe so strongly in this spirit of giving, in fact, that it informs several of [our goals](#) for [UNM 2040](#), including our commitment to enhancing the vibrancy of our campus and community, “by improving wellness, including food, housing, and physical security.”

Tuesday, November 29, is [Giving Tuesday 2022](#), a day of global generosity and of giving back to our communities, and to each other. If you are looking for ways to give back to the community this season, perhaps you will consider making a donation to our [Lobo Food Pantry](#), the [UNM Gives Campaign](#), or another organization of your choice. Volunteer, if you can, or get involved in other ways; sometimes, enthusiasm or a kind word can make all the difference.

Join me for Hanging of the Greens

One of my favorite Lobo traditions, the [Hanging of the Greens](#), will take place on the evening of Friday, December 2. Hanging of the Greens has been a Lobo custom since the 1930s, when Lobo students would gather greens from the pine forests in the Sandia Mountains and use them to decorate our library and Student Union. Nine decades later, [Mortar Board](#), working in tandem with many other campus organizations, has taken that tradition and turned it into something that gets more spectacular each year.

This year's celebration begins at 5:45 p.m. just outside the UNM Bookstore, with carolers leading the community in a procession across campus, toward University House, where I have the honor of receiving the ceremonial wreath, before gathering for a warm reception at Hodgin Hall. This year's Hanging of the Greens will be one of the largest yet, with more than 14,000 luminarias lighting our buildings and walkways, so I hope you'll have an opportunity to walk our beautiful campus on Friday night for this one-of-a-kind celebration.

Leadership Changes at Engineering, Anderson School of Management

Following a thorough national search and series of site visits that brought four remarkable candidates to our campus, I am delighted to announce that [Professor Donna Riley has been named as dean of UNM's School of Engineering](#). Professor Riley comes to UNM from Purdue University, where she is currently Kamyar Haghghi Head and Professor in the School of Engineering Education and Professor by courtesy in Environmental and Ecological Engineering. Professor Riley will begin her term as dean effective April 1, 2023. Many thanks to current Dean Christos Christodoulou, who has served in the role since 2017 and is stepping down to return to the faculty at the end of this year. Charles B. Fleddermann, who has been associate dean for academic affairs and community engagement in the School of Engineering since 2002, will serve as interim dean from January 1, 2023, until Professor Riley's tenure begins. I am grateful to Professors Christodoulou and Fleddermann for their leadership.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Julie Coonrod as Interim Dean of the Anderson School of Management (ASM) starting January 1, 2023, as a national search begins for the school's next dean. Professor Coonrod, who is presently on [special assignment as an ACE fellow](#) at the University of Maryland, has served as Dean of Graduate Studies for nearly a decade. She brings to ASM exceptional leadership and stability as we look to replace outgoing Dean Mitzi Montoya, who recently accepted a post as senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of Utah. The search advisory

committee for the next ASM dean will be in place by the end of the year. My thanks to Professor Coonrod for helping ensure a smooth transition at the Anderson School of Management.

Faculty Invited to Participate in Campus Climate Survey

The [UNM Division for Equity and Inclusion](#) is seeking to enhance the sense of belonging for faculty across all UNM campuses by urging your participation in an [online campus climate survey](#). Your responses will help UNM create a [campus climate](#) that fosters even greater diversity and success at The University of New Mexico. The survey seeks your input on subjects such as attitudes, behaviors, and standards of faculty, staff, administrators and students; respect for individual needs, abilities, and potential across units; allocation of research assets and the community wealth of the peoples of New Mexico and beyond; and the valuing of diverse voices at UNM. The [faculty survey](#) will be open from November 16 through December 31, 2022; similar surveys will be distributed for staff and students next year.

Be Mindful of your Health—and Our Healthcare Workers

While COVID-19 is still an interminable presence in our lives, this Fall is also seeing rising cases of the flu and other respiratory illnesses--so please catch up on all appropriate vaccinations for the season. Get back in the habit of regular hand washing and masking when and where it's appropriate—which presently includes all indoor spaces at UNM's Albuquerque, Gallup, Los Alamos, and Valencia campuses.

Please remember to stay home if you're feeling ill—that goes for keeping any sick children out of school or daycare as well. If you find your child has a respiratory illness, the UNM Children's Hospital developed a guide (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) to help you make healthcare decisions for your child. The pediatric bed capacity at UNM Hospital has been above 100 percent for six straight weeks now, which makes determining the right level of care for your child even more critical.

Finally, it's okay to remind family members that they can skip group gatherings if they're not feeling well. Taking care of ourselves is one of the best ways we can also take care of our hard-working healthcare professionals who remain on the front lines of our community's healthcare response.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President