



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



December 5, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

December is upon us, and with it comes the colder temperatures, shorter daylight hours, and a campus dressed in its winter holiday finery. Our annual Hanging of the Greens celebration, which marks the traditional start of the holiday season at UNM, was a joyous event, and it was wonderful to see so many of you out strolling the campus, enjoying the luminarias and being in each other's company. Whatever holiday you celebrate this season, I hope it's a happy and prosperous one.

This is traditionally one of our busiest months, with plenty of big events between now and the winter break. Final exams begin the week of December 12, and if you're uncertain what your exam schedule might be, you can refer to the [final exams schedule](#)—though as usual, please check with your instructor if you have any questions. You'll find [plenty of academic support](#) is available in the weeks and days leading up to finals, so don't hesitate to ask for help. And please also remember that UNM continues to provide comprehensive [mental health services](#) if you find yourself feeling stressed or needing someone to talk to.

I am also delighted to see us preparing for the upcoming Fall commencement, as we celebrate--and say farewell to--the Class of 2022. Fall 2022 commencement will take place on Friday, December 16 at 6 p.m. in University Arena (The Pit). If you're a graduate who's planning to participate in commencement, please check to make sure you [let us know by signing up](#). Look for more information, including a list of celebratory events [hosted at the department level](#), on [UNM's Graduation Events website](#). And I can't wait to be there with you in The Pit to help grant you your degrees!

Have a safe and successful December, Lobos.

Franklin Named Coach of the Year

What a special year it has been for our Lobo women's cross-country team and Coach Joe Franklin. On the heels of a remarkable run through the Mountain West—which saw the team win an unprecedented 15th consecutive championship—and finishing second at the NCAA Championship, [Coach Franklin was named the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Mountain Region Coach of the Year](#). Congratulations, Coach! This is a fantastic honor on top of a remarkable season.

Lobo Men's Basketball Still Undefeated

Last week our Lobo men's basketball team had a huge win against St. Mary's, with the Lobos breaking the Gaels' school-record 23-game home win streak and 29-game non-conference home win streak. Congratulations to our student-athletes, coaches, and staff. If you haven't had a chance to cheer on our still undefeated (7-0) Lobos, they have two home games this week before heading to Las Vegas, Nev. to play the University of San Francisco Dons on December 12 as a part of the Jack Jones Hoopfest. UNM hosts Western

New Mexico on Dec. 6 and the University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA) on Dec. 10, with [tickets available at GoLobos](#). Remember student tickets are free, so I hope to see you there!

Changes Under Way at Arts & Sciences

A change in leadership is underway at UNM's largest college, as Arash Mafi, who has served as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences since July 2021, recently announced that he has accepted a position as executive dean for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at the University of Kansas, effective March 1, 2023. On March 1, Professor Janie Chermak, currently serving as the chair of the Department of Economics, will assume the role of interim dean at UNM's College of Arts and Sciences until the arrival of the next leader. Provost Holloway has already begun a [national search for the next dean](#). While we will all miss having Dean Mafi as a Lobo, I'm excited for him in his new role as a Jayhawk.

UNM Recognized for Family-Friendly Workplace Policies

For the seventh year in a row, The University of New Mexico has been recognized by Family Friendly New Mexico as [a state leader in incorporating family-friendly workplace policies and practices](#) that make our university a more inviting and effective workplace. I am pleased that we have continued to adopt new practices, and adjust existing ones, to make The University of New Mexico a leader in paid leave, health support, and flexible work schedules—and I am especially proud that we have also received a platinum-level distinction for our commitment to pay equity, diversity, and investment in our community. It is a privilege to work with all of you as we continue to make New Mexico a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President