



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



December 12, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

Congratulations to [The University of New Mexico Class of 2022!](#)

This Friday, in University Arena, we will be celebrating your accomplishments—all 1,419 of you—at our [2022 UNM commencement ceremony](#). I'm looking forward to being there with you to help you mark such an important and life-changing occasion with family, friends, teachers, mentors, and others who have been so important on your journey to becoming a UNM graduate. I am also so proud of those 170 Lobos at our branch campuses who will be awarded associate degrees and certificates, well on your way to the next exciting stage of your lives. I hope you know how inspired we are by all of you; in the days leading up to this week's commencement, I hope you'll take a moment to read the stories of some of our most [inspiring 2022 graduates](#).

It is a particular joy for me to salute the Class of 2022, for you were first-year students at the very same time I was a first-year president. It has been a privilege to experience these last four years together—some of the most challenging times our university and our nation have been through—and I am thankful for your spirit and your tenacity.

I am confident that you will all go on to do great things and will succeed at whatever it is you choose to do. You've been prepared to meet the future head on by great faculty, staff, and administrators, and helped every step of the way by so many others who believe in you. Whatever the future may bring, know this for certain: You're always Lobos. And The University of New Mexico will always be here for you.

New Director and CEO Selected to Lead UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center

As one of just 51 facilities in the nation designated by the National Cancer Institute as providing world-class comprehensive care—and the only one in New Mexico -- the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center (UNMCCC) is a vital part of New Mexico's health care system. Our commitment to excellence begins with extraordinary leadership, which is why I am delighted to [welcome Dr. Yolanda Sanchez as the new Director and CEO of UNMCCC](#). Dr. Sanchez joins us from Dartmouth Cancer Center, where she served as co-investigator of the center's program for Oncology Workforce Education and Research Experience and helped develop training and recruitment platforms to empower women and other under-represented groups to pursue careers in oncology. I'm pleased to welcome her to UNM and to New Mexico, where she will become the first Hispanic woman to lead a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center.

Project ECHO's Sanjeev Arora Honored as a New Mexico True Hero

New Mexico Magazine recently collaborated with KOB-TV and the New Mexico Department of Health to spotlight the 2022 class of 10 New Mexico True Heroes, [which includes our own Dr. Sanjeev Arora](#), the

founder and director of Project ECHO. [Dr. Arora was recognized](#) for his work in transforming health care for rural New Mexicans and underserved communities around the world. The entire [Lobo community congratulates Dr. Arora for this recognition](#), and for leading Project ECHO to ensure more equitable access to quality health care in New Mexico and beyond.

Celebrating the 2022 Gerald May Award Winners

One of my great privileges as President of The University of New Mexico is helping to select the recipients of the [Gerald W. May Awards](#), presented annually to staff who have made significant contributions to the University. Each year, we ask for nominations for this award, which may be submitted by any UNM staff, faculty member, or student. This year, we received 38 nominations from across all departments and divisions—a testimony to the quality of our Lobo staff—with some individuals being nominated multiple times. I'm proud to announce that [this year's recipients of the Gerald W. May Award](#) are: **Brandi Stone**, African American Student Services; **Kent Norsworthy**, Project ECHO; **Linda Johansen**, IT Applications; **Angie Beauchamp**, Film and Digital Arts; and **Gene Henley**, School of Public Administration. Congratulations to all our 2022 winners; UNM is a better place because of you.

Campus Climate Survey Open Through December 31

Please remember that the [Campus Climate Survey](#) for faculty is open until December 31, 2022. Administered by the UNM Division for Equity and Inclusion (DEI), this survey seeks your input on subjects such as attitudes and behaviors of faculty, staff, administrators, and students; and the valuing of diverse voices at UNM. Your responses to this survey will help UNM create a campus climate that fosters even greater diversity and success. Similar surveys will be distributed for staff and students next year.

Staff Council Hosts Staff Appreciation Breakfast in January

Mark your calendars now for a special event in the first week of January, when UNM Staff Council hosts a staff appreciation breakfast on January 5, 2023, from 7 to 10 a.m. at La Posada. The celebration will feature breakfast burritos as well as opportunities to learn more about key staff benefits such as tuition remission and health care. What a great way to kick off the new year!

This is my final weekly message for 2022—I'll be back with my next message on Monday, January 9, 2023-- and with the year coming to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for being a part of the incredible community we call The University of New Mexico. My husband Jeff and I wish you all a happy holiday and a peaceful, joyful, and prosperous new year.

Good luck with finals, and let's go, Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President