



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 6, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

March is Women's History Month, a time for commemorating and encouraging the study and celebration of the vital role of women in American history, as well as reflecting on continued challenges. Inspired by a 1978 Women's History Week celebration, President Jimmy Carter issued the first executive proclamation to declare a week in March 1980 as National Women's History Week. By 1987, the week had been extended to a month--which still doesn't leave much time to celebrate the accomplishments of so many extraordinary women in our nation's history.

Although women have been on the front lines of our history for as long as we've been a nation, many of their achievements remain anonymous or uncredited to this day, still awaiting the writers and researchers who will discover them and tell their stories. At The University of New Mexico, we're writing those stories every day through the many inspiring women we call our students, mentors, colleagues, and leaders.

It is also worth celebrating some of the many programs and resources we offer at UNM to support and promote women. Our [UNM Women's Resource Center](#), for example, has been advocating for and empowering women since its founding in 1972. We are also fortunate to have our [Advance at UNM](#) program, which champions the recruitment, retention, and promotion of women and other underrepresented groups in STEM—and recently announced it is seeking proposals for its [2023 Women in STEM Awards](#), which offer grants to empower collaborations and spur research. We are also home to the [Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies program](#), one of the oldest of its kind in the nation, as well as the [UNM Feminist Research Institute](#), dedicated to scholarship on women, gender, and sexuality.

The UNM Department of Anthropology has created a [comprehensive website](#) of related UNM organizations, events, and scholars, as well as a history of Women's History Month, and a sampling of research, news and organizations. And later this week, for International Women's Day, the [Department of History will host a roundtable discussion](#), "Publishing the History of Women, Gender, and Sexuality: A Roundtable on UNM Graduates' Work," featuring five outstanding alumni who have contributed to this body of knowledge. I hope you'll take a moment this month to reflect on the known and unknown contributions of women in our history and in our own lives.

Lobos Give Big in Inaugural "Big Give"

When it comes to giving back to the community, Lobos can always be counted on to step up and do their part. Our first Big Give fundraising campaign, which began on February 28 and ran for 1,889 minutes—corresponding to the year UNM was founded—brought in Lobo donors from all 50 states, as they generously supported UNM's various academic, athletic, healthcare, and student programs. The UNM Foundation, which

coordinated the campaign, also set a goal of attaining donations from 1,889 unique donors, a goal that was quickly met and surpassed. While the final numbers are still being confirmed, we are already well past the \$800,000 mark, making our inaugural Big Give an enormous success. These are much-needed resources that we can immediately put to work providing services for our students, and I am grateful to every one of our donors for their generous support for The University of New Mexico.

Campus Climate Survey Now Open for Students

UNM's Division for Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is continuing in its effort to create a campus climate that fosters diversity and success at The University of New Mexico. Since last Fall, DEI has been surveying faculty and staff about attitudes, behaviors, and standards of the Lobo community—and now it's time to hear from our students. [DEI's survey is open to all students across all UNM campuses through Sunday, April 23.](#) As a token of appreciation for your participation, the first 500 students completing the survey will receive a \$10 gift card. Help us create a safer, more inclusive climate for every Lobo.

Health Sciences Strategic Planning Update

Planning for our future is an important and truly never-ending process. Following the launch of UNM 2040, UNM Health and Health Sciences initiated a strategic planning process, under the leadership of Executive Vice President and CEO Dr. Doug Ziedonis, mapping out its vision, mission, and plan for success to educate and train the next generation of health care professionals and to treat New Mexico's most vulnerable patients. Hundreds of faculty members, staff, clinicians, learners and students have participated in the development of the plan, and last week, [Dr. Ziedonis provided an update during a town hall on the strategic planning process.](#) I am delighted to see so many Lobos engaged in shaping our future.

State of the University Now Available Online

I want to thank everyone who attended [my annual State of the University speech](#) last Wednesday in the SUB, and the nearly 200 who joined the livestream. It was a privilege to reflect on how far we've come over the last five years and to look to our future as Lobos with pride and optimism. If you didn't get a chance to attend in person, my entire presentation is now available to watch online, either on [my website](#) or on [UNM's YouTube Channel.](#)

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President