



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 27, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question,” wrote Martin Luther King Jr, “is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” At The University of New Mexico, our response is built right into our [UNM 2040 goals](#). Service to the community is one of the foundational tenets of our [mission](#) as an institution, and every day, our Lobos are assisting New Mexico communities at the ground level. Whether volunteering at schools or libraries, helping individuals in need, or otherwise improving our physical and social environment, Lobos lead by example and, through their actions, inspire others in our communities to do the same.

It is a privilege each year to work with the Associated Students of The University of New Mexico (ASUNM) on their annual [Spring Storm, part of ASUNM’s Community Experience](#), supporting acts of community service across our campus and the greater Albuquerque area. As ASUNM’s largest and most popular community service program, Spring Storm traditionally sends hundreds of volunteers out into the Albuquerque community to assist with community service projects in the area—then brings everyone back together again for an afternoon lunch at the Duck Pond. It’s a great way for our Lobo volunteers to get to know their community and each other that much better.

This year’s Spring Storm will be on Saturday, April 15, and it is open to all UNM students, faculty, and staff—a UNM ID and e-mail address are required to participate. You can sign up individually, or as part of a team, [but be sure to register](#) so you can be assigned to a project on the day of the Storm.

There’s never been a better time to follow the lead of our students and give back to the community; [National Volunteer Week begins April 16](#), providing all of us with the opportunity to lend a hand and make a difference. And if you’re looking for a good cause, it’s a perfect opportunity to do your part to commemorate April as [Keep America Beautiful Month](#), now celebrating the 25th year of its Great American Cleanup.

And if you’re looking for a way to support our next graduating class, please consider signing up to volunteer at Spring 2023 University Commencement on Saturday, May 13 at The Pit. Volunteers are needed between 7 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., with assignments varying in task and duration.

Thanks for helping to make our campuses, and our communities, a better place.

President Biden Presents Lobos with National Humanities Medals

Some exciting news last week as a Lobo alumna and KUNM were [among 12 recipients presented with the National Humanities Medal by President Biden](#) at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. UNM alumna Henrietta Mann (Ph.D., ‘82), a renowned professor of Native American studies and founding president of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College, was honored alongside UNM’s radio station KUNM, which was celebrated for its daily radio show “Native America Calling,” which calls attention to the experiences of Indigenous

populations. The National Humanities Medal honors individuals and organizations whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the human experience, and I'm so proud to see our Lobos recognized in this way. Congratulations on a remarkable achievement.

Staff as Students Offered on April 3

The University of New Mexico is proud to make [tuition remission](#) available for eligible staff, faculty, and retirees and is pleased to encourage our Lobo employees to enroll in nearly any of our courses, whether for professional development and certification, pursuit of a degree, or "just because." Each semester, UNM Staff Council provides guidance and support to help staff with the process, including steering applicants through enrollment and registration. [Staff Council will be hosting its Staff as Students Spring session on Monday, April 3](#), from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in SUB Ballrooms A and B. Staff who enroll in courses during the Staff as Students event will not only have access to registration and advisement but will also have all application fees waived.

UNM Fiestas Returns to Johnson Field

A much-missed student event returns on Saturday, April 1, when [Fiestas, UNM's all-day musical festival, returns to Johnson Field](#), after a three-year hiatus due to COVID. The event begins at noon and features eight acts performing into the evening, alongside other entertainment, student art, and plenty of food. The event is free, but students will be asked to present a UNM ID for entry. More information, including the times that bands will be taking the stage, is available from [ASUNM Student Special Events](#). While a smaller music festival called Siestas was staged last year amid concerns over COVID, I'm delighted to see the original Fiestas back in full swing on Johnson Field, and look forward to a fun, safe, and—hopefully—sunny event.

International Trans Day of Visibility

The International Trans Day of Visibility takes place on March 31 every year to celebrate trans and non-binary people and to raise awareness of challenges faced by trans people around the world. [Inclusive Excellence is a foundational goal of UNM 2040](#), and The University of New Mexico is proud to offer support for our trans students, staff, faculty and community members, including the services available from our [LGBTQ Resource Center](#). To our trans community: you are valued, and you are seen.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President