



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



April 3, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos--

Every week seems to bring more amazing news about the accomplishments of our incredible Lobo faculty, students and staff who make The University of New Mexico such an extraordinary institution. We are proud that UNM remains a place where each of us defines all of us--where we as a pack take considerable pride in celebrating the achievements of our individual Lobos.

First, what a thrill it was to learn that two of our Lobo students, **Kelsey Adler** and **Melissa Rudden**, have been [selected as 2023-2024 Goldwater Scholars](#). The prestigious Goldwater Foundation Awards are presented each year to students who intend to pursue careers in the fields of science, math, or engineering, and are chosen based on their academic and research credentials. In 2023, more than 5,000 students from 427 institutions across the country competed for these honors. Kelsey and Melissa are among only 413 Goldwater Scholars in the nation, and we couldn't be prouder.

Next, I am pleased that UNM can salute its latest Fulbright Scholar—our sixth for the 2022-2023 academic year—with the news that **Miguel Sabol**, a master's student in Latin American Studies, has been [awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award](#). Sabol, who has a BA in International Studies and Spanish, will be living and teaching in Brazil. UNM has a strong and active Fulbright community, having produced close to 100 Fulbright awardees since 2010, and we are also one of just 43 Hispanic-Serving Institutions named as a [Fulbright HSI Leader](#). Congratulations, Miguel, on joining these impressive ranks.

I was also delighted to learn that **Tia Donaldson**, a Ph.D. candidate in Psychology, has been awarded a [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) Travel Fellowship](#) to attend the 2023 International Conference on Learning and Memory, one of only five early career researchers in the nation to receive this fellowship. And Donaldson won't just be attending; she'll be an active participant in the conference as well, as she'll be chairing a symposium and presenting her research, which focuses on the impacts of binge-level doses of alcohol on the brain's learning and memory center. What a fantastic achievement.

Among our amazing faculty, I was pleased to learn that **Milad Marvian**, an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and a member of the Center for Quantum Information and Control (CQuIC), has [received a National Science Foundation \(NSF\) CAREER Award](#). This is NSF's most prestigious award in support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of scholar-teacher, through outstanding research, excellence in education, and the integration of research and education. This award is a testament to Professor Marvian's commitment to his research and to his students, and I look forward to seeing the results of their work together in the field of quantum computing.

Finally, students and faculty from the UNM Department of Mechanical Engineering attended the American Society for Engineering Education Gulf-Southwest Section conference March 15-17 in Denton, Texas, and

came away with [several notable awards](#), including an Outstanding Young Faculty Award and first place in a papers competition. Congratulations to our Lobo winners for their showing in Texas.

As always, I'm impressed with the expertise and enthusiasm of our faculty, staff, and students. Your accomplishments are truly inspiring, and our entire pack is proud of you.

Lobo Researchers Explore Legislative Modernization

Last year, the New Mexico State Legislature provided funding to [UNM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research](#) (BBER) to look into legislative modernization, including an exploration of issues related to legislator pay, staffing needs, and length of the legislative session. BBER researchers, led by sociologist Rose Elizabeth Rohrer, interviewed legislators and staff alike, and have [recently released their findings and recommendations](#). What our legislators had to say may surprise you; their recommendations often differ wildly, depending largely on whether the district they represent is urban, rural, or suburban. I hope you'll take a moment to read [BBER's comprehensive report](#).

Related work has also been undertaken by UNM Political Science Professors Timothy Krebs and Michael Rocca, who compared data on legislatures around the nation to make recommendations on staffing, legislative pay, and session length. Their [full report](#), as well as their [recent op-ed on legislature reform in the Albuquerque Journal](#), are also available and well worth your time.

UNM Tech Days Offers a Look at Campus Technology

Lobo students, faculty and staff interested in our campus technology—and their own—are invited to attend [UNM's Tech Days event on Thursday, April 20](#), in the Student Union Building. Attendees at this day-long event can participate in lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of current and future technological innovations at The University of New Mexico, including plenty of information on the Metaverse and Digital Twins, VPNs, GIS, safety and emergency communications and other technology and infrastructure. Tech Days is free, but sessions fill quickly, so [please register](#) before April 10. I appreciate our Office of the Chief Information Officer coordinating this event.

UNM Leads NSF Project on STEM Diversity

As part of UNM 2040, we have reaffirmed our commitment to using an equity and inclusion lens to expand opportunity, cultivate the potential of students, faculty and staff, and create new knowledge. I was therefore happy to learn that [faculty from our School of Engineering are helping to lead a National Science Foundation \(NSF\) project to focus on diversity, equity, inclusion and justice](#) in STEM higher education. With a \$1.2 million NSF grant, Lobo researchers, in collaboration with colleagues at Arizona State University, will work to create new ways to support faculty and administrators to improve access, experiences, and outcomes for students and other stakeholders in science and engineering programs. The project runs through September 2026, and I look forward to seeing the results.

Summer/Fall Registration Begins April 10

It doesn't seem that long ago that I was welcoming you to the beginning of the Spring 2023 semester, and now here I am reminding you that [registration week for the Summer and Fall 2023 semesters begins next Monday](#). [Check your LoboWeb account for your specific registration date](#); you can register on that

day, or any day afterwards. The registration portal is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, making your registration process as convenient as possible. And if you need assistance creating your schedule, you can access the [College Scheduler planning tool](#).

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President