



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



May 1, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

With the pressures and other demands of final exams and projects rapidly approaching, I'd like to encourage you to remember to take time to take care of yourselves in the coming weeks. Fittingly, May is [Mental Health Awareness Month](#), a time to be aware of the vital role mental health plays in overall health and wellbeing. And if you're one of the nearly 60 million Americans who lives with a mental illness, remember you are not alone, and that support is available for you.

At The University of New Mexico, we offer [a wide range of mental health services and resources](#) for students, faculty, and staff alike. Our [Student Health and Counseling \(SHAC\)](#) services are available by appointment, and thanks to new investments in mental health services, wait times are down; many times, you can even walk in without an appointment. We are also better able to help with any crises that happen after traditional business hours, so if you need someone to talk to, don't put off making a phone call, no matter what time it might be. Eligible faculty and staff may also find similar help available from [UNM's Counseling, Assistance & Referral Services \(CARS\)](#). Additional support, such as our [Therapy Assistance Online \(TAO\) program](#), access to [employee wellness benefits](#), and other [related services](#), are also available.

We are constantly working to ensure our mental health support system at UNM remains supportive, compassionate, and responsive, so please ask for help when you need it.

## UNM School of Architecture Built on Success

The ways in which our physical environment is designed, from its landscape to its buildings, to the preservation of its people's culture, is central to every aspect of our communities. So I'm pleased to share fantastic news out of our nationally ranked School of Architecture & Planning last week, as we saw two of our faculty in the department travel to New York City to [receive their prestigious Rome Prize and Italian Fellowships, presented by the American Academy in Rome](#). Assistant Professors **Aaron Cayer** and **Cesar Adrian Lopez** were among the honorees for these [highly competitive fellowships](#), which selected winners from 988 entries in 44 states. I am especially proud we can celebrate two winners from our university, which is a rare achievement in this rigorous competition. Congratulations to Professors Cayer and Lopez on your remarkable accomplishments and well-deserved awards.

In other good news, the School of Architecture & Planning recently [presented its 2023 Jeff Harnar Awards](#), which honor the legacy of the late local architect and his groundbreaking work in contemporary design. The program presents several awards for excellence in architecture and design and is open to students and professionals in the Four Corners States---New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah—who submit their work for consideration by a rigorous and independent panel of judges from around the country.

This year, New Mexico is proud to have five winners among the prestigious list of honorees. The top prize, for Contemporary Architecture in the Southwest, went to **FORMATIVE architecture PC**, principal architects and UNM alumni **Owen Kramme** and **Stephen Teeters**, for their project USFWS Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. The First Prize Student Award in Architecture was given to UNM student **Thomas Bejcek**, for their project, Silver City Recreation Center, while UNM students **Hollis Moore** and **Lia Griesser** took home first and second prizes, respectively, in the category of Student Award in Landscape Architecture. Congratulations to our winners; the entire Lobo community is proud of you.

### **Lobo Tennis Player Named Mountain West Player of the Year**

An exciting honor went to Lobo tennis player **Arda Azkara** last week, when the UNM sophomore, who went a perfect 6-0 in Mountain West Play at No. 1 singles, was [named the Mountain West Player of the Year](#). This is the second time the Lobos have collected Player of the Year honors in the last three seasons, and it's the second year in a row that Azkara has received a major recognition from the Mountain West Conference, which named him the Freshman of the Season in 2022. Congratulations, Arda, on this amazing achievement, and thank you to our men's tennis team for a terrific season!

### **Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month**

May is [Asian American and Pacific Islander \(AAPI\) Heritage Month](#), a time for us to celebrate and pay tribute to the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in our nation's success. May was formerly chosen by [a 1992 Act of Congress](#), which noted that the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States in May 1843, and that the transcontinental railroad, which was constructed largely by Chinese immigrants, was completed in May 1869. The AAPI community is a part of the backbone of our nation and remains so to this day. This is especially true at The University of New Mexico, where we are proud to count so many members of the AAPI community among our students, faculty, and staff, and pleased to offer community, support and services through our [AAPI Resource Center](#).

### **Finalists Announced for Deans at Arts & Sciences, ASM**

Provost Holloway has announced the finalists for the positions of dean at the College of Arts and Sciences and dean of Anderson School of Management. These candidates will be visiting our campus at various times over the next two weeks, and each will hold open forums for staff and faculty, and a presentation, which will be open to all.

The [three finalists for dean at the College of Arts and Sciences](#) are Alfred Lopez, who will visit campus on May 1-2 Jennifer Malat, who will be here May 3-4; and Thomas Mote, visiting May 9-10. The [two finalists for dean of Anderson School of Management](#) are David Souder, who will be on campus May 2-3; and Vairam Arunachalam, who will visit our campus on May 8-9.

### **UNM Graduate Programs Ranked Nationally**

The annual *U.S. News & World Report rankings* of the nation's best graduate schools has just been published, and I'm always glad to see [The University of New Mexico well-represented across a wide number of categories](#). Our science and medical programs continue to maintain their presence in the national rankings,

and I was particularly pleased to see our School of Public Administration earn its highest ranking in program history; I look forward to seeing it climb even higher in the future. Well done, Lobos.

### **Kindness in Bloom**

This Wednesday, take a moment to let a staff member know how much you appreciate their kindness with a free flower. The Provost's Committee for Staff will be distributing flowers on May 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Smith Plaza, available for any Lobo to pick up and give away to the staff member of their choice. Formal nominations for the Spring Kindness Award are now open, so please [nominate someone](#) who makes our community better through their regular kindness and compassion.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President