

# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



May 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

It was wonderful to celebrate and bid farewell to our Class of 2023, as we joyfully welcomed them to University Arena (The Pit) on Saturday morning as students and said goodbye to them that afternoon as graduates and Lobo alumni. I saw anticipation and pride—and yes, some relief—throughout The Pit on Saturday as students and their families marked the occasion. Congratulations to our Class of 2023! I hope you'll all take a moment to check out the stories of some of this year's [Inspiring Graduates](#).

My thanks as well to the countless departments across campus who dedicated untold hours to planning and preparing for the ceremony – it was a tremendous success. If you were unable to join the festivities, you can watch the entire celebration on our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

## Lobo Junior Awarded Udall Scholarship

Last week, we learned the exciting news that [University of New Mexico junior Gabrielle Thomas has been awarded the prestigious Udall Scholarship](#). She joins just 54 other scholars, who were chosen out of 384 nominations from 172 institutions. Udall Scholarships are awarded to students for their passion for leadership and public service and for a commitment to Native American nations or to the environment. Among her many achievements, Gabrielle, a member of the Navajo Nation, is a co-founder of our campus Pre-Physician Assistant Society, and hopes to enroll in Physician Assistant school after graduation. Congratulations on your remarkable achievement, Gabrielle! The entire Lobo community is proud of you.

## New ROTC Building Dedicated

Since 1941, The University of New Mexico has been proud to have a [Reserve Officers' Training Corps \(ROTC\)](#) program on our campus. While more than 1,200 colleges across the country have an ROTC program, UNM is among the rare few to house [Navy](#), [Army](#), and [Air Force](#) ROTC programs. For decades, however, the three have been based in separate buildings dating back to the 1930s and 1940s, none of which adequately support modern education or training needs. I was delighted this past week, then, to help [dedicate a new facility](#) that will house all our ROTC programs under one roof, in a fully renovated and refurbished building that once housed the Alpha Chi Omega sorority. We are thankful for the generosity of New Mexico voters who approved Bond B in 2018 to help fund this project, and I am glad we have been able to provide our ROTC students with a facility that is much more suitable for their needs and duties.

## UNM Medical School Ranked Nationally

I am pleased, though not surprised, to learn that our nationally ranked School of Medicine continues to receive well-deserved accolades. *U.S. News & World Report* recently issued its rankings of the nation's best medical schools, and [ours was ranked Number 4 in Primary Care](#), Number 11 in Family Medicine, and Number 2 for most graduates practicing in medically underserved areas, a ranking I know our school will be particularly proud of. UNM also ranked 81 in research, Number 4 in most graduates practicing in primary care

fields and was ranked fourth in the nation on the diversity of its students. Consistent with our UNM 2040 goal to Advance New Mexico, our Lobo doctors and educators continue to contribute to the life, well-being, and vibrancy of our state, and I couldn't be prouder. Congratulations to everyone.

### **Looking Out for the Safety of Minors on Our Campus**

As an active member of the Greater Albuquerque community, The University of New Mexico regularly hosts activities and programs that bring minors to our campus. We are committed to ensuring a safe and supportive environment for them while they are on our campus or using our facilities as part of UNM-sponsored or affiliated programs or events. I encourage campus leaders to familiarize themselves with our policy regarding minors on campus, [UAP 2205](#), which establishes the general standards for minors participating in university programs and for minors visiting University workplaces and classrooms. For more information, please reach out to our Compliance, Ethics & Equal Opportunity Office at (505) 277-5251.

### **Staff Appreciation Week**

The University of New Mexico is the size of a small city, and it takes thousands of staff members across campus working tirelessly to keep the day-to-day operations of the university moving smoothly and efficiently. [Staff Appreciation Week is May 22-26](#), so please take time to recognize the staff members in your area and encourage them to [take advantage of the numerous events](#) Staff Council has prepared, from tours of campus facilities to hors d'oeuvres with colleagues. It is because of the dedication of our employees that our institution continues to truly be the University for New Mexico. On behalf of all of us at UNM, I want you to know that your work and expertise are appreciated and valued not only during this special week, but year-round. Thank you for all that you do.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President