



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



May 22, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

As The University *for* New Mexico, we are connected by the communities we serve. Nowhere is this more evident than at our branch campuses, located in Valencia, Gallup, Los Alamos, and Taos, where we see our mission come to life every day.

As a first-generation student, I began my educational journey at a branch campus and know first-hand the value of this important pathway to success in higher education. As we continue to implement our UNM 2040 strategy, our branch campuses will continue to be powerful drivers of student success and of [\*Advancing New Mexico\*](#).

While each branch has its own unique characteristics, and distinct economic and cultural importance to its local community, we are all united in purpose as [\*One University\*](#) to serving the needs of our students and citizens. Branches support and promote the aspirations and futures of a diverse population of students by providing opportunities for learning, discovery, and engagement, while allowing them to remain in and – if they end up transferring to the Albuquerque campus – return to their own communities. I have also been incredibly impressed by the passion and innovation of our branch chancellors, faculty, and staff, both individually and collectively. I would highly encourage you to visit our branch campuses when you can do so.

## **Student Affairs Names New Executive Director for Student Resources**

Providing our students with access to the resources they need is an integral part of our [\*UNM 2040 goal of Student Experience and Educational Innovation\*](#). Vice President of Student Affairs Eric Scott has been reorganizing his division to do just that. I was pleased to learn that long-time Student Affairs leader and Lobo alumna [\*Jenna Crabb was selected to be the new Executive Director for Student Resources\*](#). This key role will serve as a divisional leader and advisor to Dr. Scott, with a high focus on the advancement of the quality, intentionality, collaboration, and philosophical alignment of division units and all student-service units. Congratulations, Jenna, and I look forward to the contributions your new role will bring to UNM's strategic vision and mission to develop and sustain high-quality student-oriented services.

## **Inspiring a Healthier New Mexico**

Part of our flagship mission is to address some of the most significant public health challenges facing New Mexico. The goal of a healthier New Mexico – of improving and ensuring lifelong health for its people – is a shared one across our university and our state. To that end, I would like to highlight a cross-campus collaborative, housed within the UNM College of Pharmacy, aptly named [\*New Mexico Integrative Science Program Incorporating Research in Environmental Sciences \(NM-INSPIRES\)\*](#). NM-INSPIRES is one of 22 National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute of Environmental Health Science Division (NIEHS) core centers, which will engage unique and diverse populations through multi-directional communication and programs, build research capacity, attract new investigators into environmental health research, and train the

next generation of scientists and environmental health workers. With \$5.1 million in support from the NIH, 60 NM-INSPIRES team members will advance four “cores” that will examine environmental cancer, inhalation and cardiopulmonary toxicology, immunology, inflammation and infectious disease, and Communication and Implementation Sciences.

### **Anderson School Student Team Wins National Marketing Competition**

Preparing students for their futures through real-world experience and exposure to top industry talent is part of the UNM Anderson School of Management culture. Recently, a [team of UNM Anderson undergraduate students](#), advised by Professor John Benavidez, took first place, and a \$5,000 cash prize, in the national collegiate marketing competition, in which they researched and developed a multi-platform campaign. Since 2005, UNM teams have won 11 championships. Congratulations to this year's winning team of marketing students! Each of you truly defines Lobo success!

### **Honoring Patriotism, Commitment and Valor**

Next Monday, May 29, is Memorial Day. Coming from a military family, this holiday holds special significance to me and to my husband Jeff, a retired U.S. Army Colonel. The day is reserved as a time to commemorate those who gave their lives in service to our country.

As this is a three-day weekend for many of us, I'd like to ask that we all take a moment that day to reflect on, commemorate, and express our gratitude for those men and women who have given their lives in service to our nation. And to the families and friends of those lost, we are deeply indebted to you for your sacrifice.

To paraphrase President John F. Kennedy, 'a nation reveals itself not only by the people it produces, but also by the people it remembers, the people it honors.' We honor those who have served and those who continue to serve, in the name of our country, our freedom, and our liberty.

Please enjoy the extra time away from the office and campus; to those employees who work in critical areas, I appreciate your continued hard work and dedication to our institution and your role in continuing our mission of excellence. I will resume my weekly message on June 5.

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

Garnett S. Stokes

President