



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



July 31, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

While The University of New Mexico is regularly ranked by Forbes and other organizations as [one of the best places to work in our state](#), we're never one to take these standings for granted. Under [our UNM 2040 goal of Sustainability](#), one of our key objectives as an institution is to "ensure a stable and high-quality workforce for UNM," and one of the best ways we can learn more about what our staff expect and need as employees is to ask them.

Earlier this year, [UNM worked with the Gallup organization to conduct the first of what we anticipate will be an annual engagement survey](#) of UNM staff, seeking confidential feedback on your workplace experiences. After several months of data analysis, Gallup has provided us with their [initial results and findings](#), which you'll find broken out in greater detail on [the new Engage UNM website](#).

In general, our numbers are encouraging, especially for a first administration of an employee engagement survey. With an engagement score of 3.96 out of a possible 5, we rank in the 51st percentile for all higher education institutions. Our Culture of Inclusion Index, which measures elements critical to creating and maintaining inclusive environments, is even higher; in this category, our score of 3.89 puts us in the 57th percentile. These are good numbers, but I want to emphasize that they also tell us we have work to do. More detailed data and analysis will be available to us in the coming weeks and months.

My thanks to everyone who took part in the survey and for providing us with your frank answers and opinions. It is my privilege to work with each of you every day; together, we'll continue our efforts to make the Lobo work experience as fulfilling and engaging as we possibly can.

## **EPA Grants \$4M to UNM to Support Water Infrastructure**

Last week, we were visited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), accompanied by U.S. Representatives Melanie Stansbury and Teresa Leger Fernández, who formally [awarded a \\$4 million grant to The University of New Mexico's Southwest Environmental Finance Center \(SWEFC\)](#). The grant is the first allocation of \$10 million in total funding that will be awarded to the SWEFC over the next five years and will be put to work immediately helping underserved communities build capacity to develop, maintain, and operate water infrastructure. Congratulations to the [SWEFC](#), which was one of only 29 Environmental Finance Centers in the nation to receive funding for projects assisting underserved communities.

## **Music Department Creates Endowed Jazz Scholarship**

The University of New Mexico's Department of Music has created a [new scholarship in jazz studies](#), named after the late Professor Richard Karmel, which will be awarded to a deserving student in the UNM jazz studies program each year. Karmel was a passionate jazz musician who played the clarinet, saxophone, and piano, and the scholarship is funded by a gift from Karmel's sister, Nina Forrest, to honor her brother's memory

and to support jazz musicians in Albuquerque. We are grateful for her support and excited for the opportunity to educate and train the next generation of jazz musicians.

### **McCarthy Appointed Director for Women's Resource Center**

A familiar face moves into a new position at the [Women's Resource Center \(WRC\)](#) as [Áine McCarthy has been appointed as the center's newest director](#). Prior to the national search for the new director, McCarthy had been serving as the center's interim director, in addition to her longtime role as an advocate for student survivors. As the director of WRC, McCarthy will provide strategic direction, consultation, and support in addressing the education needs, prospects, and related concerns of women within our community. Congratulations on your new position, Áine; the Lobo community is fortunate to have you guiding the WRC.

### **Nuñez Named Chair of NCAA Basketball Oversight Committee**

Congratulations to UNM Vice President for Athletics/Athletic Director Eddie Nuñez, who has been [named as the new chair of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee](#). The [committee is charged with ensuring appropriate management and governance of men's basketball](#), including the supervision of qualifications and selection procedures for the NCAA Tournament and promoting the personal growth and development of student-athletes. Nuñez's three-year term begins August 1, and we are honored to have him representing UNM and the Mountain West Conference on this important national committee.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President