



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



September 18, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

[National Hispanic Heritage Month](#), celebrated annually in the United States from September 15th to October 15th, honors the diverse and rich cultural contributions of Hispanic and Latinx communities in America, encompassing a wide array of traditions, histories, and identities. Why start a celebration mid-month? September 15 marks the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, while Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Over the next 30 days, then, we as a nation pay tribute to and honor the cultures and contributions of Hispanics and Latin Americans.

As Lobos, we honor our Hispanic heritage every day and celebrate it as a rich and vibrant part of our institutional and cultural DNA. At UNM, we're proud to be classified as a [Hispanic Serving Institution](#), and even prouder that our nationally recognized [Chicana and Chicano Studies Department](#) continues to explore and examine our state and nation's Hispanic heritage, while recognizing and making new contributions to Hispanic history, arts and culture, scholarship, health and countless other areas.

We are also very fortunate that our campus community has been served for more than 50 years by [El Centro de la Raza, our resource center for Hispanic and Latino identifying students](#). [El Centro](#) provides our students with the support, services, and the specialized sense of community needed to ensure their academic, cultural, and professional success. This support includes programs like the [El Puente Research Fellowship](#), which provides opportunities for predominantly first-generation, low-income students of color to work with mentors and faculty in preparation for graduate research work, and the [Student Leadership Academy](#), which prepares students to lead the daily operations and activities of El Centro.

El Centro will be [cohosting a wide variety of events](#) with various campus partners for Hispanic Heritage Month, from courtyard coffees to gatherings of car clubs; events may be added regularly as the month-long celebration continues, so be sure to [check regularly for updates](#). I truly hope you will take some time over the next 30 days to explore and appreciate the history that has shaped us, our community, and our university.

Get Informed During Campus Safety Week

[September 18-23 is Campus Safety Week at UNM](#), a collaborative effort between our UNM Police, Office of Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity, and various campus partners to keep the Lobo community informed about our safety procedures. As an institution, [campus safety is a responsibility that we meet head-on](#) all year long through safety and prevention programs like our annual [Campus Safety Walk](#), [LoboGuardian](#), our reporting structure under Title IX and the Clery Act, the new [Campus Watch](#), our community policing, and our regular patrols and investigations—in fact, this is a perfect opportunity to [learn more about the new APD University Area Command and Substation](#) serving our community. You can learn

about these programs, and more, during our [2023 Campus Safety Week](#), and [National Campus Safety Awareness Month](#). Get informed, stay safe, and look out for each other.

Lobo Nurse Brings New Mexico Perspective to National Advisory Council

Congratulations to the College of Nursing's [Barbara Damron, whose recent appointment to the American Association of College of Nursing Health Policy Advisory Council \(AACN HPAC\) marks the first time that New Mexico has been represented on the national council](#). The AACN HPAC provides federal guidance on health-related policies, including the constantly evolving policies surrounding academic nursing. As a long-time advocate for both UNM and New Mexico, Barbara is uniquely suited to serve on the advisory council, where I am confident she will ensure that underrepresented voices are heard and understood at the national policy level.

Join the College of Fine Arts for ARTSSPLASH 2023

With a new headquarters for our College of Fine Arts now [officially in development](#), there's never been a better time to explore all that our college has to offer, whether on campus, in the classroom, or across the community. CFA Dean Harris Smith is inviting—and enticing--the entire Lobo community to come out to Cornell Mall on Wednesday, September 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for [ARTSSPLASH 2023](#) and the opportunity to learn more about UNM's vibrant College of Fine Arts. Stroll the booths representing all CFA departments and units, take in the entertainment provided by students in our Music and Theater & Dance departments, get a free ArtSplash t-shirt, and enjoy food from several local food trucks.

Harwood Museum Hosts Panel on Hispanic Artistic and Cultural Preservation

Mark your calendars for an enlightening evening on Wednesday, September 20, as the [Harwood Museum of Art at The University of New Mexico](#) hosts [a distinguished panel of experts dedicated to the preservation of Hispanic arts and culture](#). The discussion is part of the ongoing [Harwood 100 Dialogues](#), as this panel of artists, conservators, journalists, and community stewards, including Alicia Romero, the new curator of History at the Albuquerque Museum, and journalist and Lobo alum Carmella Padilla, delve into their recent projects aimed at safeguarding these traditions. Admission is free, though donations are always welcome, and [tickets may be secured in person or online up through the day of the event](#). Spend a beautiful evening in Taos and enjoy a not-to-be missed conversation.

Forensic Psychology Students Go to Court

Students in UNM's newly created [Division of Forensic Psychology are gaining valuable courtroom experience](#) and learning from actual crime through participation in a new mock trial program, created in collaboration with the UNM School of Law and members of the local legal community. By pairing psychology students with practicing attorneys, students learn how to construct psychological profiles of real defendants, testify on the stand as expert witnesses in a courtroom setting, and cross-examine witnesses—all in preparation for careers in a wide range of disciplines, from psychiatry to toxicology to criminal law. This is an exciting new initiative from UNM's Division of Forensic Psychology, housed within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, to apply theory to practice and develop standards to promote the highest levels of ethics and integrity.

Nearly Time for Change for Change

No, that headline is not a typo; the first two weeks of this year's UNM Gives United Way Campaign will feature a new initiative, *Change for Change*, that challenges departments to see who can raise the most money using just pocket change. The campaign begins on Monday, October 2 and ends on Friday, October 13--but you can [sign up now](#) to enter your department in the contest; we'll even provide the jar in which you can collect your change. The two departments that raise the most change will receive a pizza party, with the pizzas delivered personally by me and other members of the UNM leadership team. What are you waiting for? [Register your department now](#), set those jars out on October 2, and get ready to make a change with your change.

Sign Up for UNM TimelyCare

Remember that as a UNM student, you have access to free, 24/7 virtual health care services and support through [UNM TimelyCare](#), including on-demand medical care, mental health and emotional support, basic needs assistance, and health coaching. It's another way of providing you with a [wide range of resources](#) that will help achieve a sense of well-being, live healthier lifestyles and improve mental health. But please don't wait until you need it; [set up your account now](#), so the moment you *do* need services or support, you'll be ready to go.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President