



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



September 25, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

With the current federal fiscal year ending on October 1, and no sign of a budget agreement to keep the federal government operating beyond that date, there is a possibility that there may be a full or partial shutdown of the federal government at 12:01 a.m. on October 1.

As an institution that receives federal funding, such a shutdown could impact some of our university functions, particularly our research operations and other areas that rely on federal grants. UNM's [Office of the Vice President for Research \(OVRP\)](#) has provided some [preliminary guidance on dealing with a shutdown](#); the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has also issued some [general guidelines regarding agency operations during a lapse in federal funding](#).

I also want to reassure our students that, due to the way funding is allocated, federal financial aid programs for students typically are not impacted by a government shutdown. Students with any questions or concerns about federal financial aid may contact UNM's [Enrollment Management Communication Center](#) through its [Live Chat](#) or by calling (505) 277-8900.

UNM-Gallup Meets with Legislature's Indian Affairs Committee

[Our UNM-Gallup branch campus recently hosted the New Mexico Legislature's interim Indian Affairs Committee](#) for two days of conversations about serving the needs of our Native American student population. Chancellor Sabrina Ezzell updated committee members on UNM-Gallup's programs and projects, including ongoing efforts to secure federal funding for a Native American Student Center, programs to meet student basic needs, and institutional priorities for preserving Native language. There was also a productive discussion on identifying long-term funding solutions to better support permanent programs and services. I'm proud of the work we're doing at UNM-Gallup, and I very much appreciate the time and consideration the interim committee gave to discussing how we can continue to work together to serve our students.

HSC Welcomes New VP for Finance & Administration

Following an extensive and competitive national search, the UNM Health Sciences Center recently announced a key addition to its leadership team with the appointment of [Rebecca Napier as Vice President for Finance and Administration](#). Rebecca comes to UNM from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) where she was Chief Operating Officer for FAU Health and Senior Associate Dean for Finance and Administration at their College of Medicine. My thanks to the search team for finding us such an exceptional leader, and welcome to UNM, Vice President Napier. You're officially part of our comprehensive, and compassionate, academic medical center and healthcare system, and we are thrilled to have you here at the University of New Mexico.

Anthropology Spotlights Hispanic Heritage Month

As we continue to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in New Mexico and across the nation, [UNM's Department of Anthropology](#) has once again compiled a [comprehensive website of resources related to Hispanic Heritage Month](#), including information on UNM Hispanic organizations, Hispanic Heritage Month history, Hispanic scholars, and related news and research. You can also find plenty of information on upcoming events across our community, including a [showing of the 2011 film adaptation of Rudolfo Anaya's Bless Me, Ultima](#) at the National Hispanic Cultural Center on September 29, and a reminder to catch the [final days of the UNM Art Museum's exhibit Tradition and Transformation: Colonial New Spain and Contemporary Hispanic America](#).

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Begins October 1

Each year, 10 million people are physically abused by an intimate partner. National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which begins this Sunday, October 1, is a time to show our support for survivors of domestic violence by raising awareness, becoming informed, and learning more about vital bystander intervention. Please visit [LoboRESPECT](#) for more information and links to support and resources. For those affected by domestic violence or needing support, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. If you are unable to speak safely, text START to 88788. All calls are free and confidential.

Let us Hear Your Comments on the Latest Integrated Campus Plan

Work continues on UNM's Integrated Campus Plan (ICP), which will shape the future look and feel of The University of New Mexico's campus and landholdings--our wide collection of classrooms, labs, office spaces, housing halls, and other facilities, spread across 2,000 acres around the state. After more than a year of consultation with and input from students, faculty, staff, and the public, [UNM Planning, Design & Construction](#) is seeking comments on its draft ICP recommendations during a three-day open house. From September 26 to 28, [the Lobo community is invited to visit pop-up engagement stations to review the recommendations and provide input](#). More information on specific locations, including opportunities for input from Indigenous communities, is available at the Integrated Campus Plan website.

Get Set for the Annual Salsa Showdown

As we begin our annual UNM Gives Campaign on October 1, raising funds for the United Way of North Central New Mexico, we're inviting all students, faculty, and staff to impress us with the best salsa recipe on campus. If you've got an old family recipe—or maybe it's the “famous salsa” you're always asked to bring to parties—[submit your recipe by 5 p.m. on October 9](#). The first five entries will be prepared by UNM's Chartwells Catering, and on October 25, Lobos will have the opportunity to sample them all and vote for their favorite, with the winner receiving a free UNM parking permit. It's a great way to get your salsa fix and support a great cause.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President