



*October 23, 2023*

Good afternoon, Lobos --

One of the foundational goals of our [UNM 2040 plan](#) is to [create long-term sustainability](#) and ensure we have the necessary resources—human, financial, and physical—to achieve our aspirations while protecting our natural environment. One of the best ways we can achieve this goal is to create a more eco-friendly and environmentally responsible campus, which, in turn, contributes to a more vibrant campus environment and a better, more enriching student experience. That’s why I am pleased to support the [creation of a new Sustainability Department](#) to focus on UNM’s environmental impact.

This new department will operate within UNM’s [Institutional Support Services](#), with the new Director of Sustainability reporting to the Assistant Vice President of Campus Environments & Facilities. A [search for the new Director of Sustainability is currently underway](#); this director will work closely with various departments across the university to develop strategies for mitigating our environmental footprint in areas like material management, energy usage, buildings and grounds, food and dining services, and transportation. This new department will also continue to develop and refine the [comprehensive UNM Sustainability Strategic Plan](#).

As one of the region’s largest facilities in square mileage alone, I am proud that The University of New Mexico is looking closely at its environmental impact and taking steps to make our university cleaner, more efficient, and more sustainable. Together, we’re doing our part to make our community a healthier and better place to live, work, and thrive.

## **Open Access Week Celebrates Availability of Academic Materials**

This week, The University of New Mexico is [celebrating International Open Access Week](#) as part of the [global initiative](#) highlighting the significance of unrestricted access to scholarly research and the ability to freely use and share academic materials. This year’s theme, “Community over Commercialization,” encourages critical discourse on the principles driving open scholarship, and a coalition comprised of the Health Sciences Library & Informatics Center, Law Library, and University Libraries has curated a fascinating lineup of workshops and speakers, aiming to raise awareness about open access. You can [engage with UNM’s Open Access Week events](#), both in-person and online, and [view online collections](#) of art made available by [New Mexico’s Digital Collections](#). Sign up for any event and join the conversation on making academic resources more inclusive and accessible.

## **Health Leaders Discuss Workforce Needs with Senator Lujan**

During a recent town hall hosted by New Mexico’s U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján, health leaders from The University of New Mexico and around the state [explored the challenges involved in bolstering the health care workforce in our region](#). Emphasizing the significance of grassroots initiatives, Project ECHO’s virtual mentoring model was highlighted as a transformative force, catering to the needs of underserved communities, as was UNM’s unwavering commitment to promoting a homegrown workforce, with a substantial number of our graduates choosing to serve within New Mexico. Lujan, who received care from

UNM Hospital for a recent health event, held the town hall as a part of a series of community discussions on health care issues facing New Mexico. As one of the state's premiere providers of health care services, it was our privilege to be a part of this vital conversation.

### **Lobo Alum Awarded MacArthur Genius Grant**

UNM's Pulitzer Prize winning alum Raven Chacon recently received another distinguished honor as the [recipient of a prestigious MacArthur Genius Grant of \\$800,000](#). Chacon, who won the Pulitzer Prize for Music last year for his composition [Voiceless Mass](#), was presented with the MacArthur award for "creating musical works that cut across boundaries of visual art and performance to illuminate landscapes, their inhabitants, and histories." The MacArthur Genius Grant is presented to individuals who show exceptional creativity, promise for important future advances based on a record of significant accomplishments, and potential for the Fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work. This is yet another incredible accolade for Chacon, and I know the entire Lobo community joins me in sending our warmest congratulations.

### **Vote in the Salsa Showdown!**

As we approach the midway point of our 2023 UNM Gives United Way campaign, you've got the opportunity this week to vote in the Salsa Showdown, where five of the Lobo community's best salsa recipes vie for the title of UNM's Favorite Salsa. Drop by the SUB Atrium this Wednesday, October 25, between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., pick up a big of chips and samples of the five competing salsas, and cast your vote for your favorite. The winner receives a year of free parking, courtesy of PATS, while helping to raise awareness for a great cause.

### **A Memorable Homecoming Week**

What a joy to see so many of our Lobo alumni return to campus last week for Homecoming 2023. It was a week filled with many highlights, from seeing our amazing hot air balloon make a dramatic appearance at the annual *Diner en Rouge* to watching our Lobos mark up an [impressive 42-21 victory over Hawai'i at the Homecoming football game on a beautiful Saturday afternoon](#). It was truly a week to celebrate; my thanks to the entire Lobo community for the support and enthusiasm that made the week so special.

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

Garnett S. Stokes

President