



October 30, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

As hard as it is to believe—it seems the Fall semester just got under way—we arrive at November on Wednesday. Since 1986, November has been designated as [National American Indian Heritage Month](#), a time for our country to celebrate and recognize the significant contributions the original inhabitants of America have had on the United States. At The University of New Mexico, we honor our deep American Indian roots year-round, as a foundational part of our distinctive university culture and proud heritage as Lobos. [We gratefully acknowledge and recognize our history.](#)

UNM is proud to be home to faculty, staff, and students from our state's 23 tribal nations, including 19 Pueblos, 3 Apache Tribes and the Navajo Nation in New Mexico—as well as many from tribes beyond the borders of our state. And we are truly fortunate to have the compassionate leadership of Executive Director of Student Support Pamela Agoyo and her team at [UNM's American Indian Student Services \(AISS\)](#). For four decades, AISS has been supporting Native American students, serving as UNM's liaison with students, tribal and community colleges, tribal governments, and other tribal education programs.

We are also honored to be among a small number of institutions in the nation to offer a full range of degrees in [Native American Studies](#), providing an education in the Native experience of Indigenous peoples and leaning into our own complex history and intercultural heritage of New Mexico and the United States. The University of New Mexico Press also features [countless titles devoted to the American Indian experience and plenty of books by Native American authors.](#)

We proudly celebrate this part of our heritage as Lobos and honor the extraordinary Native Americans that are a vital and vibrant part of our community, our state, and our nation.

Celebrating Research Discovery Week

As New Mexico's only Carnegie-designated Research 1 institution—and among only 20 or so in the nation that are also Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)—research is part of the very foundation of our university's mission, just as curiosity is an inextricable part of our institutional DNA. Starting this Sunday, November 4 and running through November 11, [The University of New Mexico will be hosting its second annual Research Discovery Week](#). All week long, the [Office of the Vice President for Research \(OVPR\)](#) will be showcasing UNM's expansive research while providing information on resources and research opportunities available to all UNM scholars. Participants will have the opportunity to listen to presentations from keynote speakers, attend open houses, and talk with our researchers about their exciting work. More information is available on [OVPR's Research Discovery Week website](#) where you can look for the latest on lectures, events, and research showcases.

Lobo Doctors Train First Responders for Unconventional Rescues

With New Mexico's beautiful landscapes and scenic trails, it's easy to spend an afternoon going for a hike—and it can sometimes be just as easy to become lost, injured, or caught in our rapidly changing weather. When that happens, you might be out of reach of conventional rescue vehicles like police cars or ambulances. With this in mind, The University of New Mexico's [International Mountain Medicine Center \(IMMC\)](#) is transforming the face of emergency care by training first responders on how to access hard-to-reach places. IMMC focuses largely on training medical providers for mountain rescues, equipping first responders with the skills they need to navigate treacherous terrains. In a fascinating video celebrating First Responders Day, director Jason Williams highlights the critical need for specialized knowledge, citing common outdoor emergencies like dehydration, fractures, and altitude sickness. With their tailored wilderness medicine courses, IMMC has been a beacon of hope for adventurers, preparing teams for complicated rescue missions.

Wolfe Named Vice President for ISS

Following an extensive national search and interview process, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Teresa Costantinidis has [named Shawna Wolfe as vice president for Institutional Support Services](#) (ISS), effective Friday, December 1. Shawna comes to us from Ohio University, where she served as associate vice president for university planning. As vice president for ISS, she will oversee all of our institutional support services, from campus facilities to business services, in support of all our campuses statewide. Welcome to The University of New Mexico, Shawna; we're glad to have you here.

U.S. Secretary of State Designates UNM as Fulbright HSI Leader

For the third year in a row, [The University of New Mexico has been designated as a Fulbright Hispanic Serving Institution \(HSI\) Leader](#) by the U.S. Department of State, one of only 46 institutions in the nation to receive this honor. This designation recognizes HSIs that have demonstrated noteworthy engagement with Fulbright exchange participants and have promoted Fulbright Program opportunities within the university. As Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted in his letter notifying me of this distinguished designation, "[This] is a testament to your institution's dedication to promoting global engagement and mutual understanding among peoples and nations." It's an honor to again attain this distinguished recognition, and I'm very proud of the Fulbright scholars and researchers we regularly encourage and support at UNM.

Community Engagement Symposium Seeks Solutions

Our Carnegie Community Engagement classification reflects the outstanding efforts made by our students, faculty, staff, and leaders who work tirelessly to improve the lives of all New Mexicans and their communities. As part of our strategic goal to [Advance New Mexico](#), Tim Castillo, Professor of Architecture and Director for Community Engagement Initiatives at UNM, is currently leading our efforts to retain this prestigious designation.

This Friday, you're invited to join university and civic leaders, including Lt. Gov. Howie Morales, for a [Community Engagement Symposium](#) focusing on advancing New Mexico and discussing opportunities

for building better community partnerships. The symposium will feature [panelists sharing insights](#) on experiences, best practices, and strategic initiatives for empowering UNM and the greater Lobo community to address some of our most critical social challenges. This event is free and open to the public and will be held at George Pearl Hall on November 3 from 1 to 5 p.m. Come out for a fascinating discussion and join the conversation at a post-symposium reception.

Nominations Open for Fall Awards

Do you know of a member of our UNM staff who has made a significant contribution to The University of New Mexico and the Lobo community? Someone who inspires you with their leadership, vision, empathy, and enthusiasm? If so, I encourage you to nominate them for the Gerald W. May Outstanding Staff Award. Since 1994, Staff Council has been recognizing outstanding staff members with this prestigious award, created and funded by former UNM President Gerald May in 1990, with additional funding from the Regents' Endowment Fund. Staff Council will review the nominees and submit the final recommendations to me, and I will have the honor of choosing the three award winners. Nominations can come from faculty, staff or students, but the deadline is Thursday, November 16, at 9 a.m., so get your nomination in as quickly as possible.

There's also still time to submit your nominees for the Fall Kindness Award, presented by the Provost/ Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs to any permanent, non-faculty staff member who has demonstrated exceptional kindness through their service. Staff, faculty, and students may submit nominations, and collaborative nominations are both permitted and encouraged. Nominations will be accepted through November 13.

Early Voting Available in the SUB through November 4

The 2023 election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, and [The University of New Mexico is pleased to serve as an early voting location](#) for residents of Bernalillo County. Early voting is available in the Student Union Building in Louie's Lounge, Room 1076, every day from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. and ends on Saturday, November 4. If you can't vote early, you can vote at any of [72 voting convenience centers](#), including the one at UNM, on Election Day.

This Sunday, Remember to Fall Back

Finally, remember to set your clocks [back one hour](#) on Sunday, November 5, as we move back to Mountain Standard Time for the fall and winter months.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President