



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 13, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

It's truly amazing how chance encounters and the quick thinking of individuals can lead to life-saving actions. I'd like to share [a remarkable story I heard about from our HSC communications team that reflects the extraordinary compassion and dedication of members of our university family](#). On the morning of October 29th, a fateful encounter occurred on the Bosque Trail in Albuquerque -- one that embodies the values we hold dear at The University of New Mexico.

Albuquerque resident Nicholas Juskiewicz and Dr. Brandon Behrens, a trauma surgeon at UNM Hospital, both set out for the Day of the Tread 61-mile bicycle ride. Around eight miles into the ride, Mr. Juskiewicz began to feel unwell and made the wise decision to turn back. Unfortunately, his condition worsened, and he collapsed on the trail as he went into cardiac arrest. Dr. Behrens, riding not far behind, immediately recognized the gravity of the situation. With instinctive heroism, he sprang into action, demonstrating incredible medical expertise and human compassion.

What followed was nothing short of miraculous, as four other UNM Hospital employees were also on their bikes nearby. Brandi Thompson, Ron Gray, Kelsey Turk, and Newt Turk joined Dr. Behrens taking turns performing CPR and chest compressions for 20 minutes until EMS arrived. Their quick thinking, teamwork, and compassion resulted in Mr. Juskiewicz's survival.

This story serves as a reminder that UNM is more than just a place of learning; it is a community of individuals who are dedicated to making a difference, here and in their everyday lives. I would like to express my gratitude to those five heroes and to all the dedicated healthcare professionals in the UNM Health System. Your actions embody the true spirit of service and humanity. To Mr. Juskiewicz, we wish you a speedy and full recovery.

Goodrich Appointed as New Dean at COEHS

I was delighted to learn from Provost Holloway that he has [named Professor Kristopher M. Goodrich as the newest dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences \(COEHS\)](#). Goodrich has been serving as interim dean of the college since December 2022, in addition to his responsibilities as associate dean for Research and Distance Education. In addition to his energy and enthusiasm, I know his plans for COEHS include engaging the college in the planning necessary to align its mission and vision with UNM 2040. I am looking forward to his continued leadership on our campus.

UNM Health Advises "Don't Wait, Vaccinate"

As the flu season approaches, the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) has alerted us to the increasing threat of COVID and RSV infections. The University of New Mexico Health System is collaborating with NMDOH to emphasize the urgency of vaccination with its ["Don't Wait, Vaccinate"](#) campaign, guiding

you through three easy steps for staying healthy as the holiday season begins. Staying up to date on vaccinations not only helps protect you from flu, COVID, and other respiratory diseases, it protects the entire Lobo community as well. Talk to your health care provider or visit VaccineNM.org to schedule your immunization and help protect our pack for the winter.

Lobo Living Room Invites You to Peek Behind the Velvet Curtain

This Wednesday, the [UNM Alumni Association's Lobo Living Room series](#) unveils the secrets behind the United States Supreme Court with insights from a distinguished Lobo alumnus who's been there. Join Andrew Schultz, a former clerk to Associate Supreme Court Justice Byron White and a distinguished UNM alumnus, as [your guide through the intricate mechanisms and judicial considerations that shape American law and governance at the nation's highest court](#). This thought-provoking Lobo Living Room presentation, The United States Supreme Court: Behind the Velvet Curtain, begins on November 15 at 5:15 p.m. with a reception at the UNM School of Law, followed by remarks from Mr. Schultz at 6 p.m. This event is free and open to the public, but [please register in advance](#).

International Education Week-A world of experiences in your own backyard!

The [Global Education Office](#) (GEO) invites all students, staff and faculty to come listen, sample delicious cuisines and [engage with our international community](#). You can cheer on your favorite team in our 2nd annual soccer world-cup, check out UNM's vast portfolio of exchange opportunities worldwide, or listen to a NED (Nations Exchanging Dialogue) talk by one of our impressive graduate student researchers - we have activities all week-long from Nov. 13-17. I hope to see you there!

\$2.125M Open Textbook Grant Will Launch NMOER Consortium Statewide

I was delighted to find out that [The University of New Mexico has been selected as one of the recipients of the federal Open Textbook Grant, a substantial award of nearly \\$2.125 million](#). This recognition highlights our commitment to advancing education through Open Educational Resources (OER). With this grant, we will establish the New Mexico Open Educational Resources (NMOER) Consortium, aiming to assist faculty across the state in adopting open-access materials.

This grant, one of only five awarded nationwide by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, is poised to transform the educational landscape in New Mexico. The NMOER Consortium will allocate resources to faculty at The University of New Mexico, Central New Mexico Community College (CNM), and Santa Fe Community College (SFCC), building on existing state investments in equitable education. Led by UNM University Libraries OER Librarian Jennifer Jordan and co-PI Elisha Allen, UNM director of Online Strategies and Academic Technologies, this program will play a pivotal role in promoting open curriculum adoption and collaboration among institutions.

Congratulations to the 2023 Sarah Belle Brown Winners

Every year, I have the honor of recognizing one student, one faculty member, and one staff member as recipients of UNM's Sarah Belle Brown Award, which was created and endowed by Regent Doug Brown to honor his wife Sarah, and others like her, who generously devote themselves to improving their communities. This year's winners of the Sarah Belle Brown Community Service Award will be honored at a reception at

University House on Wednesday, November 15, where they will be celebrated for their impactful community service and volunteer efforts. This year's winners are **Jaelyn deMaria**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication & Journalism; **Mark S. Orgeron**, a systems and network analyst for the Information Security & Privacy Office; and **Maya L. Shamsid-Deen**, a graduate student in the doctoral program in Biology.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President