



December 11, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

To our more than 2,500 Lobos who are receiving their degrees across our campuses this week as graduates of our Summer and Fall Classes of 2023, my most sincere congratulations--and welcome to the [Lobo Alumni family](#). Your dedication and hard work are [truly an inspiration](#), and we are proud of all of you.

This is an exciting time for our Lobo graduates and for their friends and families who have supported them along the way. Thank you for choosing The University of New Mexico. Your time here as scholars, researchers, artists, athletes, leaders, and more has helped to make UNM a place where each of us truly defines all of us. I encourage each of you to continue to strive for excellence, live boldly, and to apply your innovative spirit to the opportunities and challenges, both simple and grand, that await you.

[Commencement for the Fall Class of 2023 is set for this Friday, December 15](#), beginning at 6 p.m. in University Arena. I am excited about sharing these momentous occasions together, and I am also looking forward to hearing Michelle Melendez, Director of the Office of Equity and Inclusion for the City of Albuquerque--and a two-time Lobo graduate--deliver what is certain to be an inspiring commencement address. For those who cannot attend in person, we will live-stream the ceremony on [UNM's graduation website](#).

Congratulations to our Class of 2023! Whatever the future brings, take pride in knowing that you're always a Lobo---and that The University of New Mexico will always be here for you.

Good Luck with Finals!

As we head into finals week for the Fall 2023 semester, I expect that most of our students are busy with exams, finishing projects and papers and getting ready for the upcoming winter break. Good luck with your finals, Lobos; you've worked hard to get here.

I also know this is one of the most stressful times of the school year, and I want to remind everyone that we have many resources available to help. [Student Health and Counseling \(SHAC\)](#) offers medical, counseling, and crisis intervention services for students, and [UNM Counseling and Referral Services \(CARS\)](#) provides counseling services for faculty and staff. Additionally, our numerous [resource and advocacy centers](#), as well as a variety of [mental health services](#), offer many avenues for guidance and stand ready to help any Lobo who might need assistance, advice or just someone to talk to.

For students, I also encourage you to [download the UNM TimelyCare app](#), which can be used 24/7 to access free virtual care and medical providers who can treat a wide range of conditions and concerns, from sinus infections to the flu. You can also talk with emotional support providers about anything, at any time, and find referrals to psychiatry services or basic needs support, all without the need for insurance. Download the app now to have it at your fingertips the moment you need it.

Take good care of yourselves, Lobos.

Advance at UNM Opens Survey on Wellbeing, Climate

The [Advance at UNM](#) project is conducting one of its regular climate surveys of UNM's Albuquerque campus faculty, providing insight into areas that have improved, can be improved, or need addressing over time. Based on results of the last two surveys—particularly [what we learned from the COVID era--this Fall's survey looks closely at faculty well-being and caregiving](#). Your survey should arrive in your e-mail as a message with a personalized link. Advance at UNM expects to have its report on this survey ready by the end of the Spring 2024 semester.

College of Nursing Aligns Modern, Traditional Maternal Health Care

As maternal health care in New Mexico continues to evolve--blending modern practices with cultural traditions--The University of New Mexico College of Nursing is [working to bridge the gap between nurse-midwives and traditional birthworkers](#) from Indigenous, Hispanic, and Latinx communities. With the help of a two-year, \$200,000 annual grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, our College of Nursing is facilitating a mentorship program involving participants from diverse birthwork backgrounds, creating unique collaborations and connections between these healthcare communities. This helps nurture culturally congruent maternal health care for New Mexicans with diverse wants and needs—a compassionate approach to providing great care in communities across our state.

Familiarize Yourself with UNM Services to Keep You Safe

We want to remind our campus community that we have a cadre of safety professionals working to keep us all safe every day. Individuals should feel free to report any concerning behaviors or activities to the UNM Police Department at (505) 277-2241, UNMH Security Department at (505) 272-2160, or any other law enforcement official. Individuals can also report concerning behaviors through the CARE System at [Public CARE Report | University of New Mexico Student Conduct & Behavior Management System](#), or anonymously through the UNM Compliance Hotline (1-888-899-6092), [EthicsPoint](#), or the [LoboGuardian App](#).

Staff Council Hosts Staff Appreciation Breakfast in January 2024

Mark your calendars now for a special event in the first week of January, when UNM [Staff Council hosts a staff appreciation breakfast on January 4, 2024, from 7 to 10 a.m. at La Posada](#). The celebration will feature breakfast burritos as well as opportunities to learn more about key staff benefits such as tuition remission and health care from our experts at Human Resources. It's a great way to kick off the new year.

Winter Break Setback in Effect for Final Week in December

Over the Winter Break—which goes into effect from December 22, 2023, through January 1, 2024—many of UNM's unoccupied buildings will have their [building temperatures "setback"](#) as part of our ongoing efforts to reduce energy consumption under our UNM 2040 sustainability goals. Those entering buildings during the break may notice cooler hallways, classrooms, and offices. Please note, however, that all healthcare facilities and research laboratories will remain unaffected.

Welcoming (Back) Our Newest Lobo Coach

Last week was an exciting week for Lobo football, as we officially [welcomed our new head coach, Bronco Mendenhall](#). Although he comes to us after having served as a head coach for Brigham Young University and then the University of Virginia, Coach Mendenhall is no stranger to Lobo country; he served as defensive coordinator and associate head coach for former Coach Rocky Long from 1998 to 2002. We're pleased to welcome Coach Mendenhall back to New Mexico, and I know the entire community is looking forward to an exciting new era in Lobo football.

See You Next Year!

This is my final weekly message for 2023; I'll be back with my next message on Monday, January 8, 2024. With the year coming to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for being a part of the incredible community we call The University of New Mexico. My husband Jeff and I wish you all a happy holiday season and a peaceful, joyful, and prosperous new year.

Have a great week, good luck with finals, and let's go, Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes

President