



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



January 17, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

What a thrill it is to see all of you back on campus for the first day of classes for the Spring 2023 semester! I hope everyone had a fantastic Fall semester and winter break and that you're gearing up for an equally successful Spring.

To help you get back into your routine, [The University of New Mexico is pleased to host two Welcome Back Days](#), on January 18 and January 25, to help new and returning students learn more about what UNM has to offer and how to make the most of the campus experience. Be sure you also check to see what the [Student Activities Office has planned for the semester](#), from weekly movies and workshops to leadership awards. And as students, remember that your [admission to most Lobo athletic events is free](#). Between men's and women's basketball, tennis and track and field, there are plenty of opportunities in January alone to see our Lobo student athletes in action.

The start of the Spring semester is also the beginning of a new calendar year, which offers a good opportunity to reflect on some of the amazing things that have been accomplished at The University of New Mexico since last January. I encourage you to take a moment to look at the sheer volume of [inspiring stories and successes](#) from the past year, along with our [groundbreaking achievements in research](#) in 2022 and a remarkable twelve months of truly [delivering more at UNM Health Sciences](#).

It's going to be a great semester here at The University of New Mexico, and our various institutional strategic initiatives need your insight and ideas. UNM leadership continues to offer varied opportunities for you to participate in advancing UNM and enhancing the Lobo experience. My thanks to all of you for being part of the Lobo community.

## **UNM Campus Climate Survey for Staff Now Open**

The University of New Mexico's Division for Equity and Inclusion (DEI) recently launched its [second of three online surveys designed to gather information about the campus climate](#) at UNM's Albuquerque and branch campuses. Faculty were surveyed in late 2022, and now through February 28, it's time to hear from staff, who should have recently found [the survey](#) arriving in their inboxes. Students will receive a similar survey in March, and UNM Health Sciences will participate during Fall 2023. This survey will help us understand the attitudes, behaviors, and standards of faculty, staff, administrators, and students; gauge the respect for individual needs, abilities, and potential across units; examine the allocation of research assets and the community wealth of the peoples of New Mexico and beyond; and explore the valuing of diverse voices at UNM. Results of the surveys will be shared with the UNM community during the Fall 2023 semester.

## Seeking Input on UNM's Integrated Campus Plan

UNM Planning, Design & Construction (PDC) is inviting all Lobos to participate in the drafting of the "road map" for the future development of UNM's campus and landholdings--our wide collection of classrooms, labs, office spaces, housing halls, and other facilities, spread across 2,000 acres statewide. [PDC will be hosting virtual town hall meetings](#) on January 19 and 30 to hear your input and invites you to [participate in a short survey](#) to provide your opinions on our facilities and on issues like access and sustainability across our campuses. UNM students who complete the survey will be eligible to enter a random drawing to win an Apple iPad, Nintendo Switch, or a \$100 gift card.

## Legislative Update

The First Session of the 56th New Mexico Legislature officially opened today in Santa Fe, a 60-day session in which our legislators will be dealing with record-high revenue projections and determining how to best invest that revenue in New Mexico. The University of New Mexico is proud to be presenting the legislature with [our 2023 list of legislative priorities](#), developed in congruence with the [goals we articulated in UNM 2040](#). Plenty is certain to happen between now and the end of the session on Saturday, March 18; to keep up with the legislative activities affecting UNM, [please consider signing up for the listserv e-mail provided by our Office of Government and Community Relations](#) and enrolling in our [bill tracking service](#).

## Save the Date for the 2023 State of the University

Each year, I have the privilege of standing before the Lobo community to deliver my State of the University remarks, a time for reflecting on what we've accomplished in the last year while advancing our mutual hopes, ambitions, and vision for the future of The University of New Mexico. This year, I hope you'll join me in the SUB on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 1, with the speech live streamed on [my website](#).

## Registration Now Open for 2023 Lobo Hackathon

As New Mexico's only Research 1 institution, we're used to asking tough questions and looking at the world a bit differently. The [Lobo Hackathon](#), presented by UNM Rainforest Innovations, UNM Health Sciences, the UNM School of Engineering, and the UNM Anderson School of Management, provides an opportunity for the Lobo community to collaborate on the creation of exciting new ideas or to refine an existing solution to a current challenge. The competition is open to students, faculty, staff, entrepreneurs, and others in the community, who will work in teams and present their ideas to a panel of judges for a chance to win cash prizes. This year's Hackathon will take place on April 13-14 at the Lobo Rainforest Building. The event is free, but space is limited so [please register soon to hold your spot](#).

## An Update on COVID-Related Policies

Please remember that all students must currently meet the [UNM Administrative Mandate on Required Vaccination](#) to register for Spring 2023 classes. If you test positive for COVID-19, please report it using our [Self-Report Portal](#) and [follow current CDC protocols and quarantine yourself for five days](#). And if you feel sick, even if it's just a cold, please stay home and speak with your supervisor about taking sick leave or arranging to work remotely. For students, please contact your instructors to let them know of your situation.

Masks will continue to be recommended at UNM facilities in counties designated by the CDC as a medium or high COVID community level. You should see a turquoise banner at the top of the [main UNM webpage](#) updating you weekly on the status of the counties where we have branch campuses or other facilities.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President