



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



August 14, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

We're a week away from the start of the Fall 2023 semester, which means our campuses are slowly filling with students and families, while our faculty and staff are ensuring everything is in order for the first day of class on Monday, August 21. This week will also see [the beginning of our Welcome Back Days celebration](#), as our Student Activities Center has put together a week of fun and engaging events to coincide with the beginning of the new semester. Welcome Back Days officially starts this coming Friday when the always popular [Friday Night Live](#) takes over the Student Union Building, beginning at 7 p.m.

I'm also looking forward to officially meeting our incoming Class of 2027 at the [annual First-year Family Day](#) on Sunday afternoon. This celebration is our first opportunity to engage with our newest students face-to-face and to help them and their families become familiar with our campus as they learn more about Lobo life. The University Secretary is always looking for volunteers to help make this event a success; those interested can sign up online.

This week is also your first chance to see our Lobo student-athletes in action as our [Women's Soccer team](#) takes to the field three times this week, starting with an [exhibition game this evening at 7 p.m.](#) at UNM Soccer Complex. Our [Women's Volleyball team](#) also opens its season with [an exhibition game on Saturday, August 19 at 1 p.m.](#) at The Pit, so come out to watch a few—or all—of this week's games as our Lobos compete in two great local venues.

Summer may be ending, but we're in for a great Fall together. Enjoy your last week before classes begin, Lobos, and I hope to see you around campus.

## **Project ECHO Named One of ABQ's Top Three Best Places to Work**

The *Albuquerque Business First* recently selected [Project ECHO at UNM Health and Health Sciences as one of "Albuquerque's Top Three Best Places to Work"](#) among businesses in the city with 200 or more employees. The Business First rankings recognize organizations with exceptional work climates, team atmospheres, benefits, and employee engagement. As a crucial part of UNM's health delivery system, Project ECHO has been empowering and supporting community care providers for two decades, and I join program founder and executive director Sanjeev Arora in applauding his entire team for applying the same values-based approach to running the organization that they do to serving their community partners. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.

## **College of Ed Awarded \$3 Million to Expand Teacher Residency Program**

As The University for New Mexico, dedicated to improving the lives of citizens across our state, we never take for granted that great minds are our state's most valuable commodity—and that our best tools for

cultivating those minds are great teachers. Thanks to a [\\$3 million Teacher Quality Partnership grant from the U.S. Department of Education](#), UNM's College of Education & Human Sciences will continue to expand its highly successful [District Partner Teacher Residency \(DPTR\) Program](#), which prepares our teachers to work in high-need schools. The grant will be used to support UNM's teacher residents with an additional stipend and provide professional development opportunities. It will also help with the recruitment of high-quality teachers, including much-needed special education teachers. DPTR has become one of UNM's showcase programs, and I am pleased to see our faculty's hard work acknowledged with this highly competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

## Department of Economics Hosts 2nd Annual Research Day

As New Mexico's only Research 1 institution, curiosity is a foundational part of our DNA, as Lobo researchers ask questions across departments and across disciplines. At the UNM Department of Economics, our researchers are exploring the relationship between New Mexico's economy and the well-being of our citizens, and they will be highlighting their findings as part of the department's [2nd Annual New Mexico Economics Research Day](#) on Friday, August 18. Some of [this year's spotlighted research](#) includes studies on the impact of alcohol taxes and liquor licenses, the [effects of home-grown cannabis on water usage](#), and the [viability of bioenergy production on state dairy farms](#). You can attend this free event in person or over Zoom, but please [be sure to RSVP](#).

## You're Invited to a Positively Presidential Ice Cream Social

With the beginning of a new semester and the celebration of Welcome Back Days, I hope you'll let me help you start the first week off right by joining me, my husband Jeff, and UNM leaders next Monday, August 21, as we serve up [ice cream at the Duck Pond starting at noon](#). Enjoy your choice of vanilla, chocolate, or strawberry and listen to live music while you visit information booths to get valuable information from UNM Schools and Departments about campus programs, services and resources. Information booths are open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., and we plan on giving out ice cream and popsicles until 1 p.m.—but they tend to go fast, so come by as soon as you can! I look forward to seeing everyone and hearing about your first-day experiences.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President