



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



January 29, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos --

Black History Month officially begins on Thursday, February 1, but at The University of New Mexico, the celebration has already started. This past Saturday in the SUB was our 39th annual Black History Month Kickoff Brunch, featuring Lobo alum and Executive Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico Aja Nicole Brooks as keynote speaker—a great way to start a month of commemoration and remembrance.

When it comes to recognizing the accomplishments of Black Americans and celebrating the Black experience, The University of New Mexico is truly fortunate to find itself guided and inspired by generations of proactive leaders. Six years before the first formal celebration of Black History Month in 1976, UNM had already taken steps to recognize the accomplishments of Black Americans when the collective effort of students from the Black Student Union helped create what was then called the “Afro Studies program,” one of the first such programs in the nation. Fifty-four years later, that same program is now our [Department of Africana Studies](#), [chaired by Professor Kirsten Buick](#).

We are also fortunate to have our campus community well-served by our [African American Student Services](#) (AASS), [under the leadership of Brandi Stone](#). AASS has planned a [month of events](#), starting on Thursday morning with a flag-raising ceremony in front of Scholes Hall. UNM Health Sciences is also [hosting programming for the month](#).

Black History Month is a regular reminder of our nation’s multicultural heritage and history, that the Black experience is the American experience, and that there is unity to be found in our plurality. That unity is worth striving for—but it also takes work. As James Baldwin wrote: “The paradox of education is precisely this—that as one begins to become conscious one begins to examine the society in which he is being educated.”

I encourage us all to aspire to meet Baldwin’s challenge—not just during Black History Month, but every day. Never stop exploring. Never stop learning. And never stop examining the society around us. There is always so much more to learn and understand.

New Leadership at College of Nursing

Some exciting news from our nationally recognized College of Nursing, as HSC Executive Vice President Doug Ziedonis has announced the selection of **Rosario Medina** as the college’s newest dean. She brings to the college over 43 years of active nursing experience and presently serves as the Associate Dean of Clinical and Community Affairs at the University of Colorado- Anschutz College of Nursing in Aurora, Colorado. I appreciate the work of the search committee, chaired by School of Medicine Dean Patricia Finn, to bring us such a dynamic leader. I am especially grateful to Carolyn Montoya for so ably serving as our interim dean during the search process. Dean Medina will begin in her new role on Monday, June 3.

New Quantum New Mexico Institute Celebrates Our State's Scientific Innovation

Given the pivotal role that scientists in our state and at our university have played in forging Quantum Informational Science (QIS), it is fitting that [The University of New Mexico has partnered with Sandia National Laboratories \(SNL\) to launch the Quantum New Mexico Institute \(QNM-I\)](#), pioneering the second quantum revolution. With UNM's rich history at the forefront of QIS—we have graduated more than 40 doctorates in physics who are now QIS leaders—we are uniquely qualified to help lead the way into the next phase of QIS. This new institute, spanning multiple departments at UNM, aims to make our state a global destination for quantum companies and scientists, promising extraordinary experiences for students and PostDocs, as well as an unparalleled regional ecosystem for Quantum Informational Science. Congratulations to Ivan Deutsch, UNM distinguished professor and QNM-I founding director, and our teams at UNM and SNL who made this unique partnership possible.

Graduate Commons Opening at Zimmerman

Get ready for new, dedicated space to work, collaborate and relax as we celebrate the [grand opening of the Jim and Mary Lois Friday Hulsman Graduate Commons at The University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library](#). This state-of-the-art space, created through a collaborative effort between University Libraries and The Center for Teaching and Learning, is designed to foster collaboration, community-building, and resource-sharing among graduate students. The grand opening will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 13, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We remain grateful to Jim and Mary Lois Friday Hulsman for their continued generous support of the University Libraries.

LoboEats Locates Leftovers

UNM Food has just introduced the LoboEats mobile app, allowing [UNM event coordinators and hosts to notify the Lobo community when there is excess food remaining from UNM events](#). Rather than being discarded, these leftovers are instead made available to students, faculty and staff who use LoboEats—a novel solution that helps foster a culture of sustainability and sharing, reducing the amount of food that gets thrown away while supporting our community. You can download the new LoboEats app in the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

Global Engaged Research Awards Seeking Nominations

Each year, our Global Education Office partners with the Office of the Vice President for Research to [present the Globally-Engaged Research Awards](#), highlighting the international research conducted by UNM faculty and students. These awards, presented to faculty and to graduate and undergraduate students across our Albuquerque and branch campuses, emphasize our university's commitment to dynamic international partnerships that help solve a wide range of global issues and prepare a new generation of scholars to work and live in an interconnected and rapidly evolving world. You've got until February 29 to [nominate a memorable international research project](#)

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

Garnett S. Stokes

President