



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



February 19, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos --

This Wednesday, February 21, is the UNM Big Give, our one-of-a-kind annual fundraising campaign when we invite our alumni, friends, and supporters from around the world to support the Lobo academic, healthcare, athletic, cultural, and student programs of their choosing. There are literally hundreds of programs, scholarships, and foundations to choose from, across nearly every campus community, discipline, sport, or organization.

The UNM Big Give begins on February 21 at midnight and continues for 24 hours. You can donate through the UNM Big Give website during that time, or at any UNM Food location now through the end of the fundraising event. You'll also find opportunities to donate during the Men's basketball game versus Colorado State on Wednesday night, or at other Big Give-related events.

Last year, our UNM Big Give collectively received more than \$950,000 from generous Lobo donors around the world. If there's UNM program—or maybe two—that you feel passionately about and would like to send a contribution, this is a perfect time to do it. Every donation is appreciated, and I thank you for your support for The University of New Mexico.

Alumni Association Honors Nine Notable Lobos

The UNM Alumni Association has announced the recipients of its 2024 UNM Alumni Awards, a diverse and inspiring group of honorees representing the best of our nearly 200,000 living alumni worldwide. These nine remarkable Lobos are recognized for their positive impact on UNM, their respective fields of expertise, and their communities, and they will be honored at a reception and awards dinner on Wednesday, February 28. Congratulations to this year's winners; they make our university, and our world, a better place, and the entire Lobo community is delighted to celebrate their accomplishments.

More Innovative New Spaces in Zimmerman Library

Another transformative renovation is complete in Zimmerman Library with a newly revised and reimagined B30 classroom reflecting our university's commitment to innovative learning spaces. The traditional computer stations have been replaced by eight collaborative stations to encourage and support group work and engagement, and the room is wired for seamless connectivity of nearly any device, from laptops to projectors. The renovated B30 aligns with the latest best practices for designing learning spaces and with Goal 2 of UNM 2040 to provide our students with supportive and exciting learning environments.

Celebrating Open Education Week

The University of New Mexico will be celebrating National Open Education Week from March 4-8 with a week of events raising awareness of open education and UNM's leadership in this arena. Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have

been released under a license that permits their free use, reuse, modification, and sharing with others. Late last year, UNM was one of only five institutions in the nation to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs in recognition of our efforts to advance OER in New Mexico. With this funding, we have organized the New Mexico Open Educational Resources (NMOER) Consortium to assist faculty across the state in adopting open-access materials and building on state investments in equitable education. This March, I welcome you to come learn more about our progress, as well as how to practice an open pedagogy.

UNM Food Selects New Dining Services Partner

For the first time in nearly 16 years, The University of New Mexico has a new dining services provider, as UNM Food has selected Aramark Collegiate Hospitality to provide on-campus dining services through 2034. This will include the management of all central campus retail and residential dining concepts and catering services, as well as support for the Lobo Food Pantry and Lobo Eats. This selection was made after a nearly year-long process that included input from students, staff, faculty, and the UNM Food administrative team; UNM Food will continue to schedule roundtables, town halls, and focus groups to learn more about dining experiences and preferences in the coming months. Aramark will begin providing services on July 1, 2024.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President