



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



February 26, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos --

This Wednesday, February 28 is [Lobo Day 2024](#), celebrating the date in 1889 when the Legislative Assembly for the Territory of New Mexico approved House Bill 186, creating “an Institution of learning to be known as ‘The University of New Mexico’.” This year, we’ll begin [the official celebration of our 135th birthday](#) at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday at Cornell Mall, with entertainment, food, free Lobo Day t-shirts for the first 135 attendees, and our annual group birthday photo that will be displayed in the SUB for the rest of the year.

This year’s Lobo Day leans into a space theme, in celebration of UNM’s contributions to space exploration and research—including the strides we’re making as part of our [Space Sustainability Research Grand Challenge](#). For the first time ever, you can engage with interactive displays highlighting space and UNM’s space-related research at UNM’s birthday celebration. Find out more about the participants [here](#).

Our birthday week is also a perfect time to celebrate our mutual history as Lobos, reflecting on the things that unite us and enrich our unique Lobo identity. Whether you’re a first-year student or an alumnus, we all have a shared history, shared stories, and shared experiences as Lobos to embrace and enjoy. Wear your Lobo colors with a special pride this week as you celebrate our pack.

Each year around this time, too, I [deliver my annual State of the University address](#), where I can note with pride all that we’ve accomplished over the past year, while looking to our future with optimism and excitement. I’d be honored to have you join me for this year’s speech in SUB Ballroom C on March 4 at 11:00 a.m. If you can’t attend in person, you can [watch it live on my website](#) or on [UNM’s YouTube channel](#).

Happy Lobo Day! Woof woof woof!

Explore the New EthicsPoint Hotline System

Following U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) guidance, [The University of New Mexico has revamped its EthicsPoint hotline system](#) for reporting fraud, misconduct, or abuse. Our current system, managed by NAVEX, has facilitated confidential reporting since 2014; the recent upgrade, which launched on February 23, includes a UNM-branded interface, streamlined categories, and expanded language accessibility. This initiative aligns with DOJ’s recommendations for institutions to promote an ethical culture and legal compliance. UNM remains at the forefront of transparency and ethical practices, and the enhanced system ensures easier reporting, 24/7 availability, and improved data collection. You can explore the new platform at unm.ethicspoint.com.

Lobo Selected as Truman Scholar Finalist

We have some exciting news out of our Honors College as [Lobo senior Jesus Sanchez has been named one of 191 national Truman Scholar finalists](#)—one of only 709 nominations across 285 institutions in the

United States. The Truman Scholarship recognizes outstanding college juniors and seniors who demonstrate leadership, academic excellence, and a commitment to public service, and Jesus certainly stands out as a Truman nominee. As a Political Science and Honors Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts student, he hopes to pursue a Ph.D. and increase the economic accessibility of higher education. I know all Lobos join me in sending him good wishes as he advances to the Truman finalist interviews in March.

Anne Jakle Appointed as New Sustainability Director

The University of New Mexico's Institutional Support Services (ISS) welcomes [Anne Jakle as our first Director of Sustainability](#), effective March 1, 2024. Jakle will lead UNM's sustainability initiatives, aligning with our [Sustainability goal under UNM 2040](#). Her role involves fostering campus-wide renewable efforts, collaborating with internal and external groups, and supporting UNM's commitment to environmental goals. Jakle's extensive experience, including roles at [NM EPSCoR](#) and the New Mexico Energy Department, positions her as the ideal leader for shaping a more resilient and sustainable future for The University of New Mexico.

Child Health Grand Challenge Team Receives Funding from Kellogg Foundation

[UNM's Child Health Grand Challenges team](#), led by Professors Rebecca Girardet and Gabriel Sanchez, are embarking on a [two-year study of child maltreatment funded by a \\$300,000 grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation](#). Their research aims to identify if cultural practices unique to New Mexicans provide protection against adverse outcomes later in life—a worthy goal in a state such as ours that has a rate of child abuse and neglect that exceeds the national average. The team aspires to guide state policy and prevention efforts based on their research, with an eye toward the establishment of maltreatment prevention programs.

UNM-led Interdisciplinary Team Wins AAAS Honors

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has awarded its [prestigious 2024 Newcomb Cleveland Prize to an interdisciplinary team that includes four researchers from The University of New Mexico](#). Their paper, "Early Dispersal of Domestic Horses in the Great Plains and Northern Rockies," which appeared in *Science* magazine, challenges historical assumptions, revealing the deep antiquity of horses in Native societies in North America. Lead author Will Taylor, UNM Anthropology graduate and current assistant professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder, spearheaded the groundbreaking research, along with UNM professor Emily Jones, UNM graduate Caroline Gabe, now an assistant professor of Anthropology at Adams State University, and Victoria Monagle, who is presently in the UNM Archaeology Ph.D. program. Congratulations to our team of Lobo scientists for this incredible achievement.

Radiothon Benefits UNM Children's Hospital

For 12 hours this Friday, March 1, you'll have a chance to [donate to UNM Children's Hospital as part of The Peak 100.3's Radiothon](#) and Month of Miracles. Between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Friday, [all donations will be directed to UNM Children's Hospital](#), which provides critical care for more than 85,000 children and their families—regardless of ability to pay—from New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Texas. You can donate through the [UNM Foundation's website](#), [by text or by phone](#), or even [by eating at Dion's](#) that day. Every donation matters--because every child matters--and we thank you for your support for UNM Children's Hospital.

In Service to Our Servicemembers

I'm proud that The University of New Mexico has consistently been rated as a [Gold Level "Military Friendly" university](#), recognizing that our commitment to veterans and their families is second to none among Research 1 institutions. One of the best tools we have for ensuring our campus remains open and accommodating to veterans is our regular [Green Zone training sessions](#), which prepare university faculty, staff and students to better understand the experience of veterans, service members and their families. In coordination with our Veteran and Military Resource Center, my office will be holding a Green Zone training on Friday, March 8 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the SUB Trailblazer/Spirit Room. If you'd like to participate, please [sign up here](#).

Thanks for (Big) Giving!

The numbers are in for our annual UNM Big Give and—as expected—when it comes to generosity, the Lobo community has once again exceeded expectations. In the span of 24 hours, more than 2,500 alumni from around the world made a contribution, setting a new record for the highest number of donations in a single fundraising effort in UNM history. Along with our collaboration with UNM Athletics and its annual Lobos Give Day, we raised more than \$1 million for Lobo academics, healthcare, sports, culture, and wellness. Congratulations, and a warm *thank you* to everyone who donated.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President