



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 11, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos--

It's Spring Break! I hope you have some time this week to head outside and enjoy the scenery because Spring is doing its best to return to all of our campuses across New Mexico. With life and color suddenly coming back to previously barren trees and bare flower beds, it's a beautiful time to enjoy the outdoors. And with the onset of Daylight Saving Time—you did remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, right?—you've got sunshine extending later into the evening, letting you stay outside that much longer.

With many of our students away, our campuses are likely to be quieter than usual this week, so I hope you'll find time to catch up on matters of importance to you, whether it's cleaning out your inbox at work, meeting friends for lunch, or something else. I also always like to point out that this is a great week to explore any of [New Mexico's National Parks, monuments, trails, or historic sites](#), or some of our [35 beautiful State Parks](#).

Wherever you may be this week, I hope you're enjoying your Spring Break—and if you're on campus, here's to a productive week.

Happy Spring, Lobos!

Lobo Researchers Deliver Major Lectures

As New Mexico's only Carnegie-designated Research 1 institution, we're used to looking at the world a little bit differently, through a lens of innovation and research, and reflecting [all five goals outlined in UNM 2040](#). Whether enhancing opportunities for all New Mexicans or reinforcing our university's reputation for excellence both locally and globally, the ingenuity of our researchers is always exciting. This month, you'll have the chance to hear from two of our most innovative Lobo leaders.

On March 18, [Vice President for Research Ellen Fisher will deliver The 2024 State of UNM Research](#), offering insights into the dynamic research landscape at UNM and celebrating accomplishments like the launch of [ARID](#) and [QNM-I](#), as well as the addition of [three new Level 2 Grand Challenges teams](#). The presentation begins at 4 p.m. in the PAÍS auditorium, followed by a Q&A session. This event is free and open to the public, but space is limited so please [register in advance](#).

The following week, on Wednesday, March 27, UNM will confer one of its highest honors on our faculty in recognition of their creative research as we [present the Annual Research Lecture, recognizing Distinguished Professor Felisa Smith](#) for her work across several fields, including mammalogy and paleoecology. Dr. Smith will present the lecture *Mammalian Paleoecology: Using the Past to Study the Present* at a hybrid event beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Domenici Auditorium, followed by a reception. Seats for this event tend to go quickly, so [please reserve yours now](#).

Unique Collaborative Brings Administrative Policies Under Review

Our 166 University Administrative Policies are getting a [much-needed review and overhaul to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations](#), thanks to a unique collaboration between the [UNM Policy Office](#) and the [UNM School of Law Library](#). While serving on UNM's Policy Equity and Inclusion Lens Taskforce, Sherri Thomas, assistant director of the Law Library, suggested working with the Policy Office to review administrative policies to help make them more accessible and equitable in harmony with UNM 2040—an offer our policy officer, Sidney Mason-Coon, found too good to refuse. The Law Library staff will dedicate the next three or four months to the initial review, flagging outdated online links and clarifying legal references that should help inform the Policy Office of UNM policies and guidance in need of further action or clarification. I appreciate our Lobo leaders thinking differently and collaborating in this way to keep our policies clear and precise. Thanks for the good work.

College of Education Leads Restorative Practices Partnership

In a groundbreaking collaboration, the University of New Mexico's College of Education and Human Sciences (COEHS) is spearheading the [Restorative Practice Partnership between educators in its District Teacher Residency Program \(DTRP\) and teachers at Garfield Middle School](#). Restorative practices provide students and educators with an intentional, inclusive, and respectful way of thinking about and responding to behavioral issues. Under this partnership, COEHS works with teachers before they enter the classroom to give them the skills and the practice they need to step into the classroom proactive and prepared. This partnership is another dynamic example of our commitment to community and transformative practices in education.

UNM to Host Western Positive Psychology Association Conference

Here's to the power of positive thinking: UNM will be hosting one of the nation's largest gatherings of experts in the science of happiness as [we welcome the annual meeting of the Western Positive Psychology Association \(WPPA\) on March 22-23](#) in the Student Union Building (SUB). The [WPPA](#) conference is usually held in Southern California; we are honored to be asked to host the organization's first in-person conference post-COVID as speakers and panelists take on the theme "From Surviving to Thriving." The two-day conference is open to faculty, staff, and students, and you'll want to be sure to [register in advance](#).

On a similar note, Associate Professor Bruce Smith—who is serving as the Faculty Executive Conference Chair for the conference—will be featured on the next episode of UNM's [It's \(Probably\) Not Rocket Science podcast](#), talking more about how to be happy! Tune in for the conversation, wherever you get your podcasts.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President