



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



June 17, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos --

As home to New Mexico's only academic health center, The University of New Mexico is privileged to serve the healthcare needs of citizens across our state—and beyond. As those needs have continued to grow, UNM has steadily expanded its healthcare programs and facilities, and last Friday, I had the pleasure of attending the ribbon cutting for the newest addition to our ever-growing campus as we [celebrated the opening of a new Behavioral Health Crisis Center](#).

This much-needed facility is the result of a productive collaboration with Bernalillo County, as we work together to ensure our health system addresses the needs of the entire patient, addressing their mental and behavioral health. With nearly 50,000 square feet of space, the center offers a 16-bed crisis triage area for those in need of assistance, as well as group therapy rooms and an overall supportive environment for helping those with mental health challenges make progress on their roads to recovery.

What makes this beautiful, state-of-the-art facility truly special, however, is the incredible UNM doctors and medical professionals who will be working in it day in and day out, providing the Lobo brand of quality, compassionate care that will make this facility a true gem in our Health System. We'll begin providing services to patients on June 25, and we are looking forward to [delivering more](#) as we continue to proudly serve the healthcare needs of the New Mexico community.

Three Honored as Arts & Sciences Regents' Professors

I am pleased to announce that [three professors in our College of Arts and Sciences have been named as Regents' Professors](#), honoring their accomplishments as teachers, scholars, and leaders at UNM and in their national/international communities. Our three newest Regents' Professors, appointed for the term of 2025 to 2027, are **Professor Melinda Morgan**, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies; **Professor Jason Scott Smith**, Department of History; and **Professor Tom Turner**, Department of Biology.

Regents' Professor is a special title bestowed on selected full professors who, in the judgment of the dean, and on the advice of a faculty selection committee, merit recognition for their achievements, service and leadership. Congratulations to our latest Regents' Professors for inspiring our students, serving our communities, and embodying Lobo excellence.

Parking and Transportation Hosts Virtual Town Hall

Looking for pointers on how to find the best parking spots on campus? Or maybe you want to learn more about alternate modes of commuting to and from the UNM campus. UNM Parking and Transportation (PATS) will be providing more information, and answering your questions, [as part of its virtual town hall meeting tomorrow afternoon from 2 to 3 p.m.](#) PATS encourages all commuters—whether faculty, staff, or students—to take part in this informational session. [You'll need to register in advance](#) and can submit any questions you may have as part of the registration process.

Celebrate and Reflect on Juneteenth

This Wednesday, June 19, marks the 159th anniversary of Juneteenth, commemorating the day in 1865 on which Union soldiers arrived in Texas to deliver the news that the Civil War had ended and that the Emancipation Proclamation had freed nearly four million from chattel slavery. The University of New Mexico is proud to celebrate Juneteenth as [one of our observed annual holidays](#), giving all Lobos an opportunity not only to celebrate the liberation of our fellow Americans, but also to reflect on the progress that has been, and remains to be, made to ensure that Black Americans have genuine access to freedom, opportunity, and self-determination.

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

Garnett S. Stokes

President