



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



July 1, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos --

This Thursday is Independence Day, and I want to wish everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July as we celebrate 248 years of American independence. It is a day of hope, joy, and remembrance and a time to pause and reflect on our promises and possibilities as a nation.

No matter how you celebrate the occasion, I hope you'll take a moment to consider how very fortunate we are that, nearly two and a half centuries after declaring our independence, the principles of liberty, freedom and democracy still unite us as Americans. It's also an opportunity to reflect on the tenets upon which our nation is founded—liberty, equality and opportunity. Courage gives us the voice to speak freely; imagination drives us to create new pathways to prosperity; and unbeatable determination empowers us to constantly strive to be better as a people, no matter the circumstances.

The University of New Mexico will be closed on Thursday in observance of the federal holiday, so please enjoy your day off. For those employees who work in critical areas, I am grateful for your continued hard work and dedication to our institution and our mission of excellence.

Happy Fourth of July!

CEEO Hosting Title IX Virtual Town Hall

The [UNM Office of Compliance, Ethics & Equal Opportunity \(CEEO\)](#) will [host a virtual town hall on Friday, July 12, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.](#) to discuss how the U.S. Department of Education's new Title IX regulations will impact the UNM community. The newest federal rules, released April 19, 2024, outline requirements for addressing all forms of sex discrimination in a manner that allows UNM to align its Title IX Resolution process with best practices and our community values. The town hall will feature **Barbara Rodriguez**, senior vice provost; **Ben Zinke**, CEEO hearing officer; **Frankie Flores**, director, LGBTQ Resource Center; **Michelle Dugan**, campus advocate, Women's Resource Center; and **Mutazz Jaber**, ASUNM vice president, who will provide an overview of the new rules, discuss next steps, and answer your questions. You can [access the virtual town hall via Zoom](#), and you may submit any questions you may have about the new regulations in advance by completing this [form](#).

DEI Hosting Week-Long Restorative Justice Training

Following an insightful Community Circles session with the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus during a Diversity Council meeting in May, The [University of New Mexico's Division for Equity and Inclusion \(DEI\)](#) is continuing this important conversation by [hosting a five-day Restorative Justice Training in July](#). DEI's training will be led by the City of Albuquerque's Tonya Covington, a national expert in restorative justice, whose experience and insights will help us continue to ensure the Lobo community remains inclusive and supportive. The [day-long training sessions](#) begin Monday, July 15 in the Roberts Room of Scholes Hall, and continue through Friday, July 19. [More information is available from UNM DEI](#).

Volunteers Needed for First Year Family Day

Attending classes on a large campus for the first time can be an exciting but intimidating experience for some of our new students, which is just one of the many reasons we celebrate our newest Lobos and their families each year at our First Year Family Day. Each year, we spend an afternoon in Johnson Gym welcoming our newest students to the University of New Mexico, getting to know them and their families, and celebrating their decision to let UNM guide them on their academic journeys. It's always a fun event, but it's one that doesn't come together without the critical help of our volunteers. This year's First Year Family Day is on Sunday, August 18, at 4 p.m., and volunteers will be needed for a wide variety of tasks—from directing traffic to helping families find seats in Johnson Gym—beginning as early as 2 p.m. Anyone interested in volunteering can view the available tasks and times available and sign up, if interested. You help us make this day memorable for families, and your time and enthusiasm are always appreciated.

UNM Sandoval Medical Center Among Top Socially Responsible Hospitals

As home to the State of New Mexico's only academic health center, and a vital component in our state's comprehensive health system, providing high-quality health care is part of The University of New Mexico's institutional DNA. We're privileged to deliver top-tier medical care at our hospitals and facilities, but we're also proud to be noticed for our care and compassion, too. Earlier this week, the UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center (SRMC) was ranked by the [Lown Institute Hospital Index](#) as [one of the Top 5 socially responsible hospitals in the nation](#). SRMC was also one of only 154 acute care hospitals in the nation—out of more than 2,700 considered—to receive 'A' grades across the categories of social responsibility, health equity, value of care, and patient outcomes. Congratulations to our team at SRMC, who are truly delivering more to provide New Mexicans with outstanding, comprehensive, and compassionate health care.

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

Garnett S. Stokes

President