



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



July 8, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos --

As New Mexico's premier Carnegie-designated Research 1 institution—and among only 20 or so in the nation that is also a Hispanic Serving Institution—innovation is part of our Lobo DNA, informing how we look at the world, and look at life. Whether we're exploring new ideas or enhancing existing knowledge, our curiosity compels us to keep asking questions and contemplating possibilities.

Sometimes, it's a matter of making life in your own backyard a little more bearable. That's partly what inspired Lobo Assistant Professor Nick Ferenchak to [create a system for tracking excessively loud vehicles roaring on our city streets at night](#). Ferenchak, who also serves as the director of the multi-institution [Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety](#), has invented “noise cameras,” triggered by high decibel levels, to capture the license plates of offending vehicles. Professor Ferenchak and his team have applied for a patent, put together prototypes, and continue to do research that may bring their noise cameras—and maybe some peace and quiet--to communities across the country.

Speaking of research that can change communities, and the world, [take a look at some of the groundbreaking inventions coming out of UNM Rainforest Innovations](#), our non-profit dedicated to protecting and commercializing technology developed here at The University of New Mexico. From the development of new power sources for electric vehicles to protecting our personal devices—and personal data—from would-be hackers, our Lobo researchers are seeing their new ways of thinking pay off, as their inventions are licensed for use by companies around the planet.

And finally, there are times when our researchers use their skills to bring justice to marginalized communities and help amplify voices that have traditionally been silenced. With the help of *Desolate Country*, [an interactive map](#) developed in part by Kathleen Holscher, UNM associate professor of Religious Studies and American Studies and Endowed Chair of Roman Catholic Studies, [reporters at the Washington Post](#) were able to [track down clerical abusers assigned to Native communities and boarding schools](#). Post reporters also used the map to locate additional abusers and shine a light on the dark history of Native abuse and neglect at the hands of Catholic priests and other clergy.

At UNM, we are proud that [research is education](#). The work of our innovative Lobo researchers continues to inspire all of us.

Lobo Foundation Exceeds Fundraising Goals

At The University of New Mexico, we understand that philanthropy is about more than monetary support; it's about the stories and experiences that inspire us to be a part of something meaningful, and the pride we take in our legacy as Lobos. Our stories and successes have helped make this a remarkable year for the [UNM Foundation](#), which has just announced that we have exceeded our fundraising goals for FY2024, surpassing

\$130 million in gifts and commitments. This marks the third consecutive year we have surpassed \$100 million—a remarkable achievement for UNM.

This is a testament to the generosity of our donors, whose investments reflect their belief in UNM, as well as to all of you in the Lobo community who have helped instill confidence in our mission and pride in our reputation. The UNM Foundation's Annual Report of Giving, to be distributed in November, will provide a full accounting of fiscal year 2024; meanwhile, we are excited about the opportunities ahead as the next fiscal year begins. Thank you for your continued support for The University of New Mexico, and congratulations to our foundation for another groundbreaking year.

Cast a Vote for SRMC for “Most Beautiful Hospital”

We're proud that UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center (SRMC) has regularly been rated among the best and [most socially responsible hospitals](#) in the nation, but it's also flattering to know that it's in the running as one of the “20 Most Beautiful Hospitals in the Nation,” too. And it's not just looks that matter; the contest also recognizes hospitals for developing and improving their campuses, facilities and staff, and creating holistic and healing environments—things we do every day at SRMC. Voting runs through July 25, so [cast your vote now](#). The winner will be announced on July 31, and the winning hospital will receive \$5,000 for its foundation.

Find Your Way with the UNM Interactive Campus Map

Campus construction making it tough to find a place to park? What's the closest place to buy coffee? The University of New Mexico is making it easier to navigate our Albuquerque campuses with the help of [an innovative online interactive campus map, modernizing the campus experience for students, staff, faculty, and visitors](#). The new user-friendly map provides comprehensive information, real-time updates, and wayfinding capabilities, making it easier to figure out where you are, and where you're going, all the way down to turn-by-turn walking directions. This project is the result of hard work by [a diverse, cross-campus working group](#), which is continuing to add new members to ensure the map remains as up-to-the-minute as possible. My congratulations and thanks to the team; this collaborative effort supports the university's strategic goal of enhancing administrative functions and strengthening its positive impact on the community. Well done.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President