



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



July 22, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos --

A recent report published by [Excelencia in Education](#) ranked The University of New Mexico as [18th nationally in producing Hispanic graduates](#) with bachelor's degrees in education. We are honored to be recognized as one the nation's top 20 institutions in meeting the critical need for outstanding educators. This ranking is a testament to the high standards and hard work of our College of Education and Human Sciences (COEHS).

The *Excelencia* in Education report, called [Finding Your Workforce: Latino Talent in Education](#), identifies a particularly important need for Latino educators in college-level classrooms, where, nationally, only six percent of full-time faculty are Latino. According to the report, the Top 20 institutions are meeting the educational needs of their states and the nation by purposefully serving Latino students and producing Latino talent, providing not only great educators but also great role models for classroom students.

At The University of New Mexico, we are proud of our commitment to diversity and to [inclusive excellence](#). Congratulations to Dean Goodrich and everyone at COEHS for earning this important national recognition and for working hard today to train the remarkable educators of tomorrow.

## UNM Clinicians Lead Efforts to Combat Long COVID

After nearly three years of research on Long COVID, [clinicians at The University of New Mexico are transforming their findings into improved patient care](#). Since late 2021, UNM has been part of the [NIH-funded RECOVER Initiative](#), enrolling thousands nationally, including more than 200 adults and children in New Mexico. Investigators are focusing on understanding and addressing diverse symptoms such as post-exertional malaise, cognitive impairments, and behavioral health issues, and leaning into personalized, multidisciplinary treatment plans. Their work continues to influence national health policies and patient care standards—truly [delivering more](#) to improve lives not only for New Mexicans but also for countless Long COVID patients in communities around the world.

## UNM Honors Nine New Distinguished Professors

Each year, we ask our faculty to let us know who inspires them, both as colleagues and as scholars. From a flurry of enthusiastic nominations, and after a rigorous nomination and review process, a select number of professors are honored by The University of New Mexico with the title of Distinguished Professor, a distinction awarded to those who have demonstrated outstanding achievements and who are nationally and internationally renowned as scholars. It is, in fact, the highest distinction that we bestow upon our faculty.

This year, we have the [honor of elevating nine faculty to these elite ranks](#), representing a wide variety of knowledge, expertise, and experience from across our colleges and campuses. Congratulations to the following professors: **Elaine Bearer**, Pathology, School of Medicine; **Matthew Campen**, Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy; **Cameron Crandall**, Emergency Medicine, School of Medicine; **Tobias Fischer**, Earth and Planetary Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences; **Mala Htun**, Political Science, College

of Arts and Sciences; **Tiffany Lee**, Native American Studies, College of Arts and Sciences; **Gabriel Lopez**, Chemical and Biological Engineering, School of Engineering; **Xin (Robert) Luo**, Marketing, Information, and Decision Science, Anderson School of Management; and **Robert Miller**, Biology, College of Arts and Sciences.

Congratulations to our 2024 honorees! You are an inspiration to the entire University of New Mexico community and to Lobos everywhere.

### Finalists Named for Center for Teaching and Learning Executive Director

I am pleased to announce that University of New Mexico Associate Provost Bill Stanley has named [three finalists for consideration as the new executive director](#) for [UNM's Center for Teaching and Learning](#). This key position oversees the advancement of learning environments that exemplify caring, equitable, and resilient approaches that connect our campus community. The three finalists are **Trey Conatser**, currently the director of the University of Kentucky Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching; **Joshua Eyler**, Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning and Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan for Critical Thinking in Gen Ed Courses at the University of Mississippi; and **Megan Elwood Madden**, Director of the Center for Faculty Excellence at the University of Oklahoma. These three candidates will be visiting campus the week of July 29, and each will be [hosting an open presentation in the Student Union Building](#), meeting with students, faculty, and staff.

### Lobo Professor Elected to British Academy International Fellowship

Congratulations to [Lobo Professor Steven Feld](#), Distinguished Professor of Anthropology Emeritus, who was just [elected as one of 86 new British Academy International Fellows](#). The British Academy is the UK's national academy for the humanities and social sciences, with a fellowship consisting of over 1,700 distinguished academics. Professor Feld is one of only 30 non-UK fellows elected this year, and I am excited by the opportunities this fellowship offers for further collaboration and innovation in his field of [acoustemology](#) - a term coined by Feld, referring to a sonic way of knowing and being in the world. Again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement.

### Get to Know the Center of the Universe

The Center of the Universe—artist Bruce Nauman's walk-through concrete sculpture located between Mitchell and Ortega Halls—is such a familiar and iconic part of our campus that it's hard to believe it was met with confusion and protests when it was put in place in 1988. [The UNM Newsroom tells the story of its installation nearly 40 years ago](#), its reception by the Lobo community, and how a plain concrete structure went from loathed to beloved, as well as a must-have campus photo op that even gets [a shoutout from Atlas Obscura](#).

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President