



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



July 29, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos --

As home to New Mexico's only academic health center, The University of New Mexico is privileged to provide an exceptional education for aspiring medical professionals and to bring compassionate healthcare services to communities across the region. We are especially proud to be [nationally recognized for the exceptional clinical care our hospitals provide in several critical health-related areas](#), ensuring all New Mexicans have access to top-tier healthcare.

Recently, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked UNM Hospital as a “high-performing hospital” in the areas of colon cancer surgery, surgery, heart attack, heart failure, leukemia, lymphoma, & myeloma, and stroke. Additionally, *U.S. News & World Report* rated UNM's Sandoval Regional Medical Center as a high-performing hospital in diabetes care. This designation is particularly important as 12.3 percent of our state's population has a diabetes diagnosis, with [another 53,000 New Mexicans unaware they have diabetes](#).

As noted by Kate Becker, CEO of UNM Hospital, these ratings reflect our ongoing commitment to safety, quality, and health equity as we work to [advance New Mexico](#) and contribute to the quality of life, growth, and prosperity of our state—and beyond.

## **NSF Invests \$16M in UNM-Led Climate Resilience Research**

Get ready for a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future: as part of the national effort to build climate resilience capacity, [the National Science Foundation \(NSF\) has awarded nearly \\$16 million to three research projects led or supported by The University of New Mexico](#). The projects aim to build climate resilience capacity—that is, an ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to disturbances related to climate—by exploring indoor farming, integrating Indigenous knowledge with Western science, and converting waste into construction materials. Through our collaborative efforts with tribal communities, industry partners, and other institutions, we're poised to drive meaningful change in New Mexico, neighboring states, and regional tribal communities.

## **Empowering the Next Generation of Space Leaders in New Mexico**

University of New Mexico alumna Raven Delfina Otero-Symphony is pioneering a groundbreaking initiative, [SCOPE-NM](#), to make space research accessible to all New Mexicans. [This innovative program aims to cultivate a diverse space workforce, promote local space activity, and provide educational resources](#). Otero-Symphony, a 2022 graduate and a member of UNM's [Space Sustainability Research Grand Challenge](#) advisory board, seeks student delegates, mentors, and sponsors to join the movement. With a vision to become a statewide program, SCOPE-NM is positioned to push the boundaries of inclusivity and space exploration. Apply by September 1 as a [student](#) or a [mentor](#) and be a part of shaping the future of space research in New Mexico.

## Political Science Students Get Personal with Supreme Court History

Students of Lobo Political Science Professor Lawrence Jones recently had a special opportunity to learn about the historic [Kelly v. United States](#) Supreme Court case by [hearing directly from Bridget Kelly herself](#). During a Zoom call, Kelly—a former Deputy Chief of Staff to then-governor Chris Christie—shared with the class her personal experience and insights into the 2013 ‘Bridgegate’ scandal, in which Governor Christie allegedly closed several lanes at the George Washington Bridge between New York and New Jersey for political revenge. Kelly provided a unique perspective on a case that resulted in her firing and conviction, a decision that was later unanimously reversed and dismissed by the U.S. Supreme Court. My thanks to Professor Jones for so memorably making history come alive.

## Look for Lobos in the Summer Olympics

With the Olympics officially underway in Paris, you might want to [keep an eye out for seven of our Lobo athletes and staff](#) who are representing various nations in this year’s summer games. Former UNM golfers **Manon De Roey**, **Victor Perez** and **Gavin Green** will be competing for Belgium, France, and Malaysia, respectively. Meanwhile, on the running track, **Josh Kerr** will be representing Great Britain in the 1,500m, and **Weini Kelati** will compete in the 10,000m for Team USA. Also on Team USA will be **Ellis Dawson**, serving as a manager for Team USA Basketball, and **MacKenzie White**, who works as a dietician for swimming and track & field. Congratulations to our Lobos competing and serving in this year’s games; we couldn’t be prouder.

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

Garnett S. Stokes

President