



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



August 5, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos --

With the start of the fall semester just two weeks away, we're excitedly preparing for the arrival of our newest students and those who are continuing their college experience with us. One way in which we are gearing up to support our Lobos is by offering [workshops on community building and conflict resolution from August 12-15](#). These interactive workshops are designed for faculty, staff, and graduate students. They provide practical strategies and resources to enhance classroom dynamics and respond to challenges in class discussions. Hosted by Advance at UNM, the Office of Academic Affairs, and the Center for Teaching and Learning, the sessions will be led by Mikhail Lyubansky, a teaching associate professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Steph Posey, a doctoral student in the School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign will co-lead the sessions for graduate students. Don't miss [this opportunity](#) to gain valuable skills that will foster a supportive and resilient learning environment in the new academic year ahead.

UNM Updates Title IX Policies in Response to New Federal Regulations

In line with the U.S. Department of Education's 2024 Title IX Regulations, [The University of New Mexico has updated its University Policy and Procedures Manual to ensure compliance](#). Effective August 1, the revised University Administrative Policies—UAP 2720, UAP 2740, and the newly introduced UAP 2760—address Equal Opportunity, Sex-Based Discrimination, and Pregnancy or Related Conditions. These interim updates, which will be reviewed later this year, reflect necessary changes mandated by federal regulations and UNM's commitment to supporting an inclusive and equitable environment for our entire community. Revised syllabus language related to these policies was distributed today.

UNM Study Advocates for Multi-Level Approach to Tackling Gun Violence in African American Communities

[A groundbreaking study by Dr. Tameka L. Gillum from The University of New Mexico's College of Population Health](#) is illuminating the urgent need for a comprehensive strategy to address gun violence in African American communities. Published in Psychological Reports, the research utilizes a socio-ecological model to identify and analyze risk factors at individual, relationship, community, and societal levels that contribute to the alarmingly high gun homicide rates among African Americans. Based on the findings, the study advocates for targeted interventions at multiple levels, from policy reforms to community-based programs, underscoring the need for culturally sensitive solutions and effective interventions to combat this public health emergency. We are proud that UNM engages in scholarship like this that contributes directly to an improved society.

Do We Need Social Media Warning Labels?

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy has recently called for warning labels on social media apps—like those found on cigarette and alcohol packaging—to address the growing mental health crisis among youth. [UNM faculty members Carolina Contreras, Kristina Sogar, and John Benavidez \(from UNM's Communication and Journalism Department, Department of Psychiatry, and Anderson School of Management, respectively\) offer nuanced perspectives on the potential effectiveness of digital warning labels, the challenges of implementation, and the broader implications for youth mental health.](#) Their critical inquiry underscores the likely need for comprehensive strategies beyond warning labels, including digital literacy programs and increased parental involvement.

UNM-Gallup Bids Farewell to Lions Hall

In a poignant moment for The University of New Mexico-Gallup, [the recent demolition of Lions Hall marks the end of an era](#), but its legacy endures. Donated by the Gallup Lions Club in 1969, Lions Hall was the cornerstone of the branch campus's development, symbolizing the community's dedication to education. The building's impact on the campus's establishment and growth remains invaluable. Chancellor Sabrina Ezzell expressed heartfelt gratitude for the Lions Club's pivotal role, which laid the foundation for UNM-Gallup's success. This tribute to Lions Hall highlights the rich history and continued evolution of the campus and the generosity of the Gallup community.

UNM Engineering Student Shines on American Ninja Warrior

While the Olympics are getting their fair share of attention in Paris, here at home [Ixchel Valentino, a second-year nuclear engineering student at UNM, is making waves on NBC's American Ninja Warrior.](#) Balancing rigorous academic demands with intense ninja training, Ixchel, known as “the nerdy ninja,” displayed her impressive skills on the show's latest season, where her qualification run featured a dramatic victory on a challenging obstacle. I'm wishing her the best of luck at her next round on August 12.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President