



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



August 19, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos --

Welcome to the Fall 2024 semester! This is always a particularly exciting time of the year, as our campuses fill with new and familiar faces, and everyone adjusts to new classes, new schedules, and new experiences as Lobos. It was great seeing such big crowds over the weekend at First Year Convocation and at today's Ice Cream Social where campus leaders had the opportunity to speak with many of you and hear the stories of your first day.

I have seen how involvement in the Lobo community can transform and add immense value to a student's university experience. Whether it's through student organizations, community service or service-learning, Greek life, or student employment, I encourage you to make the time to connect with your fellow Lobos and [explore some of the many opportunities](#) to learn more about yourself and our community.

In the coming days and weeks, I hope you'll familiarize yourself with the [wide variety of resources, services and programs available to you](#), from career services and counseling to advocacy groups and student support organizations. And as we talk about the excitement of beginning a new semester, we also know that stress and anxiety can be a part of the experience. At The University of New Mexico, we're proud to make a [wide range of mental health services available](#) to our students, faculty and staff who may need it.

Our annual [Welcome Back Days events and programming](#) continue throughout the week—and there will also be plenty of opportunities to celebrate Lobo life as the semester continues, so be sure to [grab a Student Activities Calendar](#) for the most up-to-date listing of activities for Fall 2024. You can pick one up at the Student Activities Center in the Student Union Building (SUB) or [download a printable version](#). You're going to love what we've got in store for you this semester.

No matter where you're attending—Albuquerque, Gallup, Los Alamos, Rio Rancho, Taos, Valencia or virtually—we're thrilled to have you as part of our Lobo family.

UNM Discloses Additional Investment Information

At the end of the Spring semester, members of my leadership team and I met with several student leaders and organizers to further our understanding of their desire for UNM to, among other things, disclose our institutional investments, which are managed through the UNM Foundation. Consistent with our institutional commitment to transparency, UNM is beginning the process of [disclosing additional investment information](#), as agreed to by university leadership. By revealing additional details of our portfolio, we respect our students' desire to better understand the institution's financial associations. We will continue to provide relevant updates as available, understanding that some information is protected by non-disclosure agreements or other legal constraints.

Nuñez Leaves Lobo Nation for New Role in Houston

After seven years at the helm of Lobo athletics, UNM Vice President/Director of Athletics Eddie Nuñez is bidding Lobo Nation farewell to accept a position as Assistant Vice President for Athletics/Director of Athletics for the University of Houston. His tenure here was marked by countless championships and successes both on and off the field. In addition to 53 NCAA Tournament appearances and 22 Mountain West titles on his watch, the GPA of our student-athletes last semester was a record high of 3.42. I appreciate all that he has done guiding Lobo athletics and wish him the best in his new role leading the Cougars.

Lobo Bicyclists Make the Ride of a Lifetime

A frontrunner for this year's best response to the perpetual question, *what did you do on your summer vacation?* is definitely Lobo senior Connor Donovan who, along with his team "The Future Cowboys," [embarked on a cross-country bicycle journey, covering](#) 3,500 miles in 56 days from Seattle, Washington, to Coney Island, New York. The group, composed of Donovan and three friends, including two other UNM students, rode through 12 states, embracing the challenge of biking across the country. An Albuquerque native, UNM theater design student, and employee of the Lobo Bike Shop, [Donovan described the cross-country ride as "the experience of a lifetime"](#) and says that he plans to undertake the adventure again—though perhaps next time with a few overnights in hotels along the way!

UNM Hospital to Host Listening Session

The University of New Mexico Hospital will be [hosting a community listening session](#) to provide residents of [Bernalillo County District 3](#) an opportunity to share their thoughts on healthcare and the upcoming extension of the [UNM Hospital mill levy](#), which will appear on the ballot this November. The listening session will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 26, at the [International District Library](#). I appreciate the engagement of UNMH CEO Kate Becker and her team with the greater Lobo community to help ensure we continue delivering more to meet the healthcare needs of New Mexicans.

UNMPD to Roll Out Body Worn Camera Program This Year

The University of New Mexico is enhancing campus safety this fall with the [introduction of body-worn cameras](#) (BWCs) for its police department. This initiative underscores UNM's commitment to accountability, transparency, and fostering community trust. After careful consideration and planning we are aiming for full implementation within three to six months. The decision reflects UNM's proactive approach to campus safety, ensuring both effectiveness and community peace of mind through comprehensive policy development and community policing. If you have questions or comments to help inform our communications with our Lobos as this rolls out, we've got a [brief survey and comment form](#) that will be open through September 15.

Register for TimelyCare, Win a Prize

If you are a student and are feeling stressed or overwhelmed in any area of your life, we're here for you. I'm pleased that [UNM's partnership with TimelyCare provides you free 24/7 virtual access to licensed providers for your mental health needs](#). While I hope many of you have already downloaded the app and created a TimelyCare account, for those who have not, here's a bit of an incentive for to do so right now. [Students who create their TimelyCare profile](#) now through September 30 will be registered in a drawing for a \$25

Amazon Gift card. Please register your account now so you'll have access to its resources when you need them.

Seeking Nominations for Sarah Belle Brown Award

Each year, I have the honor of recognizing one student, one faculty member, and one staff member as recipients of [UNM's Sarah Belle Brown Award](#), presented to those in the Lobo community who serve as examples of social responsiveness and who have donated considerable personal time and effort advancing The University of New Mexico's public service mission. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 20, so [let me know who inspires you](#). The faculty and staff recipients each receive a cash award of \$1,500, and the student recipient receives a \$1,500 scholarship, all generously endowed by Doug and Sarah Brown.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President