



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



September 16, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos —

National Hispanic Heritage Month began yesterday, on Sunday, September 15, and runs through Tuesday, October 15. Why start a celebration mid-month? September 15 is the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, while Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Over the next 30 days, then, we as a nation pay tribute to and honor the cultures and contributions of Hispanics and Latin Americans.

At The University of New Mexico, we honor our Hispanic heritage every day and celebrate it as a rich and vibrant part of the Lobo legacy. UNM is proud to be classified as a [Hispanic Serving Institution](#) and is a longtime member of the [Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities](#). We are even prouder that our campus community is served by [El Centro de la Raza](#), now celebrating 55 years of supporting Hispanic and Latino identifying students. El Centro provides our students with the services and the specialized sense of community needed to ensure their academic, cultural, and professional success. As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, El Centro has launched [a fundraising campaign](#) and will be [hosting or cohosting a wide variety of events](#) throughout September and October.

We are also very proud of our nationally recognized [Chicana and Chicano Studies Department](#), which continues to explore and examine our state and nation's Hispanic heritage, while recognizing and making new contributions to Hispanic history, arts and culture, and countless other areas. To kick off Hispanic Heritage Month, Chicana and Chicano Studies have joined with the UNM Student Activities Center to bring you [the popular Lobos y Lowriders event](#) on Wednesday, September 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Cornell Mall. You can also find plenty of information on UNM's programs and resources supporting the Hispanic and Latino communities, as well events taking place across our community, on the [UNM Department of Anthropology's website](#).

"It is important," wrote Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic member of our nation's highest court, "for all of us to appreciate where we come from and how that history has really shaped us in ways that we might not understand." Throughout September and early October, I encourage you to explore and appreciate the history that has shaped us, our community, and our university. Study and enjoy Hispanic art and history, for instance, or read any of our great Chicana and Chicano writers—you'll find plenty available from [UNM Press](#)—and reflect on this key part of our legacy as Lobos.

Happy Homecoming Week!

I hope everyone is off to a great start for [Homecoming Week 2024](#). It was nice to see so many of you this afternoon for s'mores and cider out at the Cactus Garden, making the best of an overcast and wet day even as we enjoyed each other's company. There are many other [great events happening this week](#) as we welcome our alumni back to campus, including daily tours at the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology,

the popular *Diner en Rouge* on Wednesday night, and a [DEI Homecoming Open House](#) on Thursday morning. And, of course, all Lobos are invited to University Stadium this Saturday evening as we take on Fresno State for our 2024 Homecoming football game. The game starts at 6:30 p.m., but tailgating in the Howl Zone begins at 4 p.m., so arrive early and start the Homecoming celebration. Here's to a great Homecoming, Lobos.

Registration Open for Quantum NM Symposium

The University of New Mexico is pleased to be hosting the [2nd Quantum New Mexico \(QNM\) Symposium on Friday, September 27](#). This hybrid event will spotlight the progress QNM has made toward realizing New Mexico's potential as a quantum information science and technology hub and will feature a keynote address from New Mexico U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich. [Registration is now open](#); the in-person symposium will be at Hotel Andaluz in downtown Albuquerque.

Nominations Now Open for Alumni Awards

By proudly giving back to their communities and constantly changing the world for the better, our alumni truly embody the very best of the Lobo spirit, and our [Alumni Association](#) works hard to make sure their accomplishments are recognized and honored. [The UNM Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for the prestigious Alumni Awards](#). The awards celebrate the accomplishments of UNM graduates across a variety of fields such as leadership in education, groundbreaking research, and community service. Nominations may be [submitted online](#) through Tuesday, October 1. Winners will be honored at the Alumni Awards Banquet on February 28, 2025. Go ahead—nominate a Lobo who inspires you!

Enter the App Contest, Win Prizes

If you're a creative undergraduate at UNM or CNM with a passion for app design, UNM's [Office of the Chief Information Officer](#) is offering you a chance to show off your skills and maybe even win some prize money. The [13th Annual App Contest](#) challenges students to develop an idea and build a "high fidelity" prototype and design. Assemble a team, connect with mentors at Lobo Rainforest, and [register by October 31](#). The team with the winning app takes home \$5,000; get started by [registering today](#).

Salsa Showdown

As we ramp up toward our annual [UNM Gives Campaign](#) in October, which raises funds for the United Way of North Central New Mexico, we invite all students, faculty, and staff to help us find UNM's favorite salsa by taking part in the annual Salsa Showdown. If you've got an old family recipe—or maybe it's the "famous salsa" you're always asked to bring to parties—[please submit your recipe by 5 p.m. on October 3](#). UNM catering will prepare the first entries from students, faculty, and staff for a tasting in the SUB Atrium on October 15 from noon to 1:30 p.m. where Lobos can vote for their favorite. The winner will receive a free UNM parking permit along with bragging rights for creating UNM's favorite salsa. It's a great way to get your salsa fix and support a great cause.

UNM Podcast Returns for Season 2

It's (Probably) Not Rocket Science (IPNRS), UNM's award-winning podcast, is back this fall for Season 2 with an episode featuring researchers from UNM's Health Sciences Center titled "Everything You Should

Know About Microplastics.” Listen in as our panel of Lobo experts discuss their ongoing research and what it means for your health. You can [download and listen to the latest episode here](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.

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

Garnett S. Stokes

President