



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



September 23, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos -

As the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month continues here at The University of New Mexico, our [El Centro de la Raza](#) is inviting all faculty, staff and students to participate in the symposium [Transforming UNM's HSI Identity and Praxis: Beyond Hispanic-Enrolling to Hispanic-Serving](#). With guidance from some of our notable Lobo leaders, this symposium is aimed at sharing promising practices for creating a Hispanic-serving culture and practice. There will also be a keynote by renowned expert and scholar in Hispanic Serving Institutions, [Dr. Gina Ann Garcia](#), who will lead participants through an interactive workshop. The symposium will conclude with time to reflect and engage in action planning to move our university forward in establishing an identity and praxis to match our HSI designation.

This symposium not only gives us an opportunity to reflect on our evolving roles as a Hispanic Serving Institution, but it also directly reflects [Goal 3 for Inclusive Excellence under UNM 2040](#). The symposium takes place in the SUB Ballrooms on Friday, October 4, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. [Registration is now open](#); if possible, please register before October 1 to ensure an accurate headcount for lunch. My thanks to El Centro for its leadership in engaging our community in this important conversation.

ISS Reorganization Focuses on Responsiveness, Collaboration

UNM's [Institutional Support Services](#) (ISS) has recently made [several strategic changes to enhance its operations and better serve the university community](#). These efforts include two departmental restructurings, leadership appointments, and the launch of a new department. UNM Capital & Space Strategies and UNM Planning, Design & Construction have been reorganized to create [UNM Campus Capital & Space Planning](#) (CCSP) and [UNM Facilities Design & Construction](#) (FDC), streamlining project workflows and strengthening collaboration. Additionally, ISS has formally launched the [Office of Sustainability](#), which has already advanced several campus sustainability initiatives, including conducting UNM's first-ever waste audit at the Student Union Building and co-sponsoring a successful Sustainability Expo. I appreciate the hard work of the entire ISS team, under the leadership of VP Shawna Wolfe, to make ISS more collaborative, innovative, and responsive to the needs of our community.

Know Your Rights Under Title VI

I would like to remind our campus community about an important matter that affects us all. As you may know, last November the [U.S. Department of Education issued a "Dear Colleague" letter reaffirming our obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#). This federal law protects individuals from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, including shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics, in programs or activities that receive federal funding.

Every student has the right to a learning environment that is free from discrimination. As your president, I want to emphasize our unwavering commitment to upholding these rights and fostering an inclusive environment where every member of our diverse community feels safe, respected, and valued.

We recognize that domestic and global events can heighten tensions on campus. Please know that we

are here for you. We take our responsibilities under Title VI very seriously and are dedicated to preventing discrimination in all its forms, promptly addressing any reported incidents, [providing support to those affected by discrimination and educating our community about their rights and responsibilities](#). If you experience or witness any form of discrimination, I urge you to [report it immediately through our established channels](#).

Our strength lies in our diversity, and together, we will continue to build a campus community that celebrates our differences and unites in our shared pursuit of knowledge and understanding. Thank you for your commitment to these important principles.

College of Fine Arts Celebrates ARTSSPLASH 2024

This Wednesday, join UNM's College of Fine Arts in [celebrating its third annual ARTSSPLASH event](#), spotlighting the fine arts at The University of New Mexico. With preliminary work underway on our [Center for Collaborative Arts and Technology](#), which will provide a central hub for our programs, there's never been a better time to [learn about the various programs and opportunities our College of Fine Arts has to offer](#). The celebration gets underway out on Cornell Mall, just east of the Student Union Building, this Wednesday, September 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Apart from enjoying live performances, you can also attend the Arts Career Fair from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., where you'll have a chance to connect with representatives from New Mexico's arts organizations. And don't forget to have your ARTSSPLASH Passport stamped at departmental booths so you can receive your ARTSSPLASH 2024 T-shirt.

Batter Up! Lobo Med Student Wins MLB Home Run Derby

Lobo **Andrea Howard** is already an accomplished second year medical student and former Olympic softball player—and now [she's added a new accolade to her list of achievements: Major League Baseball Home Run Derby Champion](#). Last month, at the MLB Home Run Derby X (HRDX) championship held at Isotopes Park, Andrea and her two teammates—Washington Nationals star Ryan Zimmerman and Lobo sophomore baseball player Gene Trujillo—outslugged the competition 63-46, with [Andrea leading her team by scoring 26 points on 15 home runs](#). She notes that her experiences on the playing field, and her participation in the [UNM School of Medicine's Learning Communities program](#), have prepared her for success as she moves toward a career as a physician, researcher, and scientist. Congratulations, Andrea; you can add that HRDX trophy to your list of proud accomplishments.

“Change for Change” Begins on October 1

The 2024 UNM United Way Campaign officially gets underway on October 1 when the Change for Change campaign challenges departments to see who can raise the most money using just pocket change. Change for Change begins on Tuesday, October 1 and ends on Friday, October 25—but you can [sign up now to enter your department in the competition](#); we'll even provide the jars in which you can collect your change. The two departments that raise the most change will receive a pizza party, with the pizzas delivered personally by me and other members of the UNM leadership team. What are you waiting for? Register your department now, set those jars out on October 1, and get ready to bring about change with your change.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President