



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



*October 21, 2024*

Good afternoon, Lobos—

As The University of New Mexico continues to make major strides both nationally and internationally in advancing quantum information science and technology, it was thrilling to see so many leading researchers and notable New Mexicans turn out for [UNM's 2nd Quantum New Mexico Symposium](#). One after another, speakers and presenters focused on the strengths of New Mexico's quantum programs, pointed to the unique opportunities to build the local quantum economy, and stressed the importance of engaging with leading institutions across the state.

Notably, the symposium celebrated the newly-launched [Quantum New Mexico Institute](#), a joint partnership between UNM and Sandia National Labs—and, very soon, to include Los Alamos National Laboratory. Additionally, there was also the debut of [Elevate Quantum](#), the Mountain West Tech Hub which has received more than \$127 million in public and private funding to advance the United States as a global leader in quantum technology. Other panels featured many of our alumni, discussing quantum education and training, and reflecting on their own experiences as researchers. It was exciting to see so much local innovation and expertise in one place, and I look forward to seeing what advances in quantum research have been made by the time of next year's symposium.

Speaking of advances in quantum research, UNM assistant professor **Milad Marivian** from the School of Engineering is participating in [a \\$7.5 million U.S. Department of Energy project to research quantum algorithm theory](#). As a member of the Quantum New Mexico Institute, Professor Marivian will join researchers at Sandia National Laboratories, as well as Caltech, University of Maryland, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory to focus on quantum computing research targeting software, control systems and algorithmic advancements. Congratulations to Professor Marivian for being part of this exciting initiative.

## **Celebrating National Transfer Week with Our New Transfer & Transition Student Center**

October 21 to 25 is [National Transfer Student Week](#), which is a time for celebrating transfer students and those who support them on their journeys to attain an education. How fitting, then, that this morning, we [cut the ribbon on a new Transfer & Transition Student Center](#), which serves as a hub for students whose educational pathways brought them to The University of New Mexico from another college or university, another UNM campus, or through our Dual Credit & Concurrent Enrollment Plan. This center represents our commitment to ensuring that our transfer students are supported and valued, and provided with the dedicated advisement, programming, and access to other resources and opportunities needed to help them succeed. It is a privilege to support and celebrate these students.

## **Engage Freely with Open Access Week**

This week, [The University of New Mexico is celebrating International Open Access Week](#) as part of a global initiative highlighting the significance of unrestricted access to scholarly research and the ability to freely use

and share academic materials. Continuing with last year's theme of "Community over Commercialization," [International Open Access Week](#) encourages critical discourse on the principles driving open scholarship. A coalition comprised of UNM's [Health Sciences Library & Informatics Center](#), [Law Library](#), and [University Libraries](#) has curated a fascinating lineup of workshops and speakers, aiming to raise awareness about open access. You can engage with UNM's Open Access Week events, both in-person and online, and view materials made available by [New Mexico's Digital Collections](#) by [signing up for any of this week's sessions](#). Join the conversation on making academic resources more inclusive and accessible.

## New Resource Guide for Students Interested in Health Sciences Pathways

As part of our ongoing effort to address the growing need for healthcare workers both locally and nationally, UNM Health Sciences has created a [valuable resource to guide students on the pathway to a career in healthcare or a health-related field](#). The *UNM Pre-Health Resource Guide* provides students interested in pursuing a health-related degree with guidance on advisement, admissions, financial aid, wellness, and experiential learning and community-building opportunities across UNM's campuses. I am grateful to the UNM Health Professions Cross-Campus Pathways Committee, the [UNM Health Sciences Office of the Executive Vice President](#), and the [UNM Office of the Associate Provost for Student Success](#) for creating this comprehensive guide.

## Outstanding Supervisors Honored

At the very heart of The University of New Mexico's long-standing mission—providing students with a first-rate education, conducting top-tier research, and delivering quality, compassionate health care—are our extraordinary and talented employees. Our remarkable Lobo staff make our university extraordinary by leading through preparation and imagination, by empowering through empathy, and motivating by their example. Last week, I had the pleasure of honoring the Outstanding Supervisors of 2024 for their extraordinary service to UNM and the Lobo community.

I am delighted to announce that this year's honorees are **Patrick Burk**, Police Lieutenant, UNM Police Department, and **James Shrum**, Associate Director of Operations, Student Health & Counseling. My thanks, as always, to UNM Staff Council for its continued leadership in organizing this special award, and my warmest congratulations to this year's winners.

## Duck Pond Renovation Begins in Mid-November

One of UNM's most iconic and beloved spaces is about to get a much-needed makeover as [work will begin this winter on a revitalization of the Duck Pond](#). The renewal project will focus on restoring the environmental health of the pond and the condition of the surrounding landscape, including replacing aging infrastructure, enhancing water quality, and improving safety and accessibility. The basic shape and appearance of the Duck Pond will remain unchanged, and work should be completed in Spring 2025. It's all part of the long-awaited [Duck Pond Revitalization Project](#), and the entire campus community is [invited to the official groundbreaking](#) on Wednesday, November 6, from 4 to 4:45 p.m.

## And the Favorite Campus Salsa Is . . .

The results are in—and the contest was close!—but we have a clear winner for this year's Salsa Showdown, which kicked off our annual [UNM Gives campaign](#) to benefit the [United Way of North Central New Mexico](#).

The winner is Salsa #3, submitted by faculty member **Christoph Wagner**, Assistant Professor of Cello, Head of Strings, in the UNM Department of Music. Apart from having the costs of his parking covered by PATS, Professor Wagner also gets bragging rights as having UNM's favorite salsa recipe. Second place went to Salsa #2, submitted by **Colton Newman**, business manager at UNM's Center on Alcohol, Substance Use, and Addictions (CASAA), and third place was Salsa #1, from Lobo sophomore **Sophia Walker**. Congratulations to all three of our showdown entries and thank you for sharing your recipes for such a worthy cause.

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

Garnett S. Stokes

President