



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



October 28, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos—

While it seems as if the Fall semester has only just begun, we officially arrive at November—which is [National American Indian Heritage Month](#)—on Friday. Since 1986, November has been a time for our country to celebrate and recognize the significant contributions the original inhabitants of the American continent have had on the United States. At The University of New Mexico, we honor our deep American Indian roots all year long, as a foundational part of our distinctive university culture and proud heritage as Lobos. [We gratefully acknowledge and recognize our history.](#)

UNM is proud to be home to faculty, staff, and students from our state's 23 tribal nations, including 19 Pueblos, 3 Apache Tribes and the Navajo Nation in New Mexico, as well as many from tribes beyond the borders of our state. And we are truly fortunate to have the compassionate leadership of Executive Director of Student Support Pamela Agoyo and her team at UNM's [American Indian Student Services \(AISS\)](#). For four decades, AISS has been supporting Native American students, serving as UNM's liaison with students, tribal and community colleges, tribal governments, and other tribal education programs. Be sure to [check their website](#) regularly during November for special events and celebrations.

We are also honored to be among a small number of institutions in the nation to offer a full range of degrees in [Native American Studies](#), providing an education in the Native experience of Indigenous peoples and leaning into our own complex history and intercultural heritage of New Mexico and the United States. [The University of New Mexico Press](#) also features countless [titles devoted to the American Indian experience](#) as well as plenty of books by Native American authors.

We proudly celebrate this part of our heritage as Lobos and honor the extraordinary Native Americans that are a vital and vibrant part of our community, our state, and our nation.

## Join HR Town Hall to Review Latest FLSA Changes

Significant changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) are set to take effect on January 1, 2025, which will impact overtime eligibility for many University employees. On Friday, [UNM Human Resources is hosting a special online FLSA Town Hall](#) to help the campus community understand the changes and prepare for the transition. Please join the discussion this Friday, November 1, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. by [logging in here](#), then entering Webinar ID **960 2942 3265**, and password **187204**.

## Five Lobos Win Research & Creative Works Leadership Awards

Congratulations to [the winners of this year's Research and Creative Works Leadership Awards](#), which are presented to honor recently promoted faculty who have accomplished outstanding research or creative works in their respective career stage. Five faculty were honored at a celebration at University

House for their remarkable impacts on their selected fields. This year's winners are **Jeremy Hogeveen**, associate professor, Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences; **Yu Yu Hsiao**, associate professor, Department of Individual, Family and Community Education, College of Education and Human Sciences; **Abdullah Mueen**, professor, Department of Computer Science, School of Engineering; **Cármelo de los Santos**, professor, Department of Music, College of Fine Arts; and **Vanessa Svihla**, professor, Department of Organization, Information and Learning Sciences, College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences. You are a credit to our faculty and to the entire Lobo community.

## University Counsel Search Continues

Following an extensive national search, I am pleased to announce that our search committee has recommended three finalists for the position of UNM's General Counsel. The three finalists are Daniel Jones, currently Vice President, Legal Affairs & General Counsel at Florida Atlantic University; Art Lee, Vice President and Deputy University Counsel and the University of Arizona; and John Newsome, Strategic Advisor to the President and Provost of the Medical College of Wisconsin and outside counsel for the Rothman Institute. The three finalists will be visiting campus the week of November 4. More information, including open forum schedules and candidate information, [is available on UNM's Executive Search website](#).

## Engineering Launches AI & Autonomy Graduate Certificate

The UNM School of Engineering is introducing a new graduate certificate in [Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy](#) with the help of a \$3 million grant from the National Science Foundation's National Research Traineeship program. Led by Professor Meeko Oishi in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the five-year initiative—known as “Reliable and Responsive AI for Autonomous Systems Engineering” (RAISE)—will train master's and Ph.D. students in ethical, interdisciplinary AI applications. The program will emphasize autonomous systems, algorithmic fairness, and ethical design, with research collaborations across UNM departments—all of which is to say that UNM continues to lead the way in innovative research in Artificial Intelligence. Students will gain industry exposure through internships with leading partners like Sandia National Laboratories, Northrop Grumman, and Torc Robotics. The first cohort begins Fall 2025.

## Early Voting Continues at Louie's Lounge

The 2024 election is only eight days away, but if you don't want to chance waiting in long lines on Election Day, you can still vote in person at an early voting site through Saturday, November 2. Any voter registered in Bernalillo County may vote early at Louie's Lounge on the ground floor of the Student Union Building, or at any [early voting center in the county](#). If you're a New Mexican who's not a Bernalillo County resident, you can easily find your nearest early voting locations through [the website of the New Mexico Secretary of State](#). Before you head out, you can [download a sample ballot](#) and familiarize yourself with [some of the issues on the ballot that affect The University of New Mexico](#). Make your voice heard; exercise your right to vote.

## On The Latest Podcast....

And while we're on the subject of the upcoming election, [the latest episode of It's \(Probably\) Not Rocket Science](#) looks at election misinformation and how the internet is impacting the election and the political

process. You'll also hear from UNM's experts on communications and politics to help you sort through what's real, what's not, and why it matters. You can find the latest episode [here](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President