



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 4, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos—

Next Monday, November 11, is Veterans Day, a time when we celebrate, commemorate, reflect on, and remember our nation's veterans and their families.

We celebrate and commemorate our veterans with our most heartfelt respect for their sacrifices and appreciation for their service. We are honored to have so many veterans as part of our Lobo family and the UNM campus community. We are also proud that we continue to be named among the nation's Top Military Friendly Schools. And we will always be committed to providing our [Green Zone Training](#), which helps ensure that UNM remains a supportive environment for veterans and their families. To our veterans: the entire Lobo community *thanks you*.

And to the families of our veterans, let me say that I know you also serve. I grew up with a father in the military, and I remember vividly the day I came home from school in 1969—I was in ninth grade—and my mom told me that my dad was going to Vietnam and that we would live in Georgia while he was gone. We left Arizona for Georgia exactly one week later, and my father left for Vietnam soon thereafter.

I know about leaving one's school or community when a parent or spouse has a change in assignment—and of the uncertainty one feels knowing a family member might be called away to serve or may even sacrifice their life in service to the nation. So, to all the families of veterans everywhere: we recognize the sacrifices you, too, have made, and honor you as well.

At UNM, we traditionally mark this occasion by gathering in the [Alumni Memorial Chapel](#), which was dedicated in 1962 to honor UNM's fallen soldiers. The south wall of the chapel lists the [names of the members of our Lobo family lost in the nation's wars](#). It is a reminder of our responsibilities as a nation, as well as our continuing respect for and obligations to our veterans, their families, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of our country and the common good. This year's [Veterans Day Celebration and Remembrance](#) takes place in the Alumni Memorial Chapel on Monday, November 11, at 10 a.m.

As you cast your ballot on Election Day tomorrow, I encourage you to please remember those who have sacrificed their lives to preserve and protect our foundational right to vote. And whatever the outcome of the election, I hope we will all strive to treat each other with the same dignity and respect embodied by our veterans as they served to protect that right.

UNM Earns Fourth Consecutive Fulbright HSI Leader Designation

For the fourth year in a row, [The University of New Mexico has been designated as a Fulbright Hispanic Serving Institution \(HSI\) Leader](#) by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs -- one of only 51 institutions in the nation to receive this honor. This designation recognizes HSIs that have demonstrated noteworthy engagement with Fulbright exchange participants during the 2023-24 academic

year and have promoted Fulbright Program opportunities on campus. I am delighted that we have again been so recognized, and I'm proud of the Fulbright scholars and researchers we regularly encourage and support at UNM. As an HSI, I am particularly pleased we can share our unique Lobo culture and experiences with universities and communities around the globe.

Three HSC Faculty Honored with Research & Creative Works Leadership Awards

Congratulations to our faculty honored with this year's Research and Creative Works Leadership Awards, presented to recognize recently promoted faculty who have accomplished outstanding research or creative works in their respective career stage. Last week, I mentioned our five recipients from central campus; this week, [I want to recognize our three HSC honorees](#): **Julie G. In**, associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, UNM School of Medicine; **Alicia Bolt**, associate professor in the College of Pharmacy; and **Andrew L. Sussman**, professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, UNM School of Medicine. Congratulations to all three award winners, who make the entire Lobo community proud.

Research and Discovery Week Kicks Off November 8

As New Mexico's only Carnegie-designated Research 1 institution—and among only twenty or so in the nation that are also Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)—research is part of the very foundation of our university's mission, just as curiosity is an inextricable part of our institutional DNA. Starting this Friday, November 8 and running through November 15, [The University of New Mexico will be hosting its third annual Research Discovery Week](#). All week long, our [Office of the Vice President for Research \(OVPR\)](#) will be showcasing UNM's expansive research while providing information on resources and research opportunities available to all UNM scholars. Come listen to presentations from keynote speakers, attend open houses, [learn more about our newest Grand Challenges](#), and talk with our researchers about their exciting work. Plenty of information is available on [OVPR's Research Discovery Week website](#) where you can look for the latest on lectures, events, and research showcases.

GNSPI Designated as Federal Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence

UNM's [Global & National Security Policy Institute \(GNSPI\)](#) was recently awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the [U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence](#) to officially [designate the University of New Mexico as an Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence](#) (IC CAE). These centers are tasked by the federal government with creating a competitive, knowledgeable, and diverse workforce committed to carrying out our national long-term security initiatives. UNM's GNSPI will receive its funding over nine years to develop and support courses and programs that will prepare students interested in pursuing careers in intelligence and national security, including the recruitment of IC CAE Scholars, who have opportunities to collaborate with federal agencies or study abroad. GNSPI will also bring new professional development programs to UNM, such as a Global & National Security Symposium and a related career fair. This is an exciting new phase for our Global & National Security Policy Institute; congratulations on securing the funding for this prestigious federal designation.

UNM Cancer Center Receives Three-Year Reaccreditation from Commission on Cancer

The University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center, the only NCI designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in New Mexico and one of 57 nationwide, has [successfully earned reaccreditation from](#)

[the Commission on Cancer \(CoC\)](#), an esteemed quality program of the American College of Surgeons. This recognition follows a comprehensive evaluation that confirmed full compliance with CoC standards, underscoring the center's commitment to high-quality cancer care. The reaccreditation, which requires a rigorous site visit every three years, highlighted the dedication of the UNM Cancer Center's medical and support teams. As an accredited CoC institution and ACS Surgical Quality Partner, our cancer center continues to demonstrate its relentless pursuit of excellence and continuous self-improvement, ensuring our providers are delivering more of the Lobo brand of compassionate, quality care for all patients.

Celebrate Our First-Gen Lobo Students

This Friday, The University of New Mexico will proudly join hundreds of universities across the nation in [celebrating our First-Generation students](#). This day commemorates the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965, a landmark legislation that opened doors to higher education for millions of low-income and first-generation students. Through this act, countless individuals have broken the cycle of poverty, creating new opportunities for themselves and their families. At UNM, our promise is to [make every first-generation student feel seen, supported, and celebrated](#). As a proud first-generation student, I invite you to [join me and Vice President for Student Affairs Eric Scott on Friday, November 8, from noon to 1 p.m. in the SUB Atrium to honor our remarkable First-Gen students](#). Come help celebrate the legacy of first-generation excellence on our campus!

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President