



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 18, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos—

I have the joy and privilege of opening this week's Monday message by congratulating Lobo alum [Abrianna Morales, who was selected over the weekend as one of only 32 U.S. recipients of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships](#). This is one of the most competitive and celebrated awards on the planet, and I am so proud of Abrianna for her hard work, care, and commitment, which have earned her this well-deserved honor.

Abrianna, who graduated *summa cum laude* in 2023 with a BS in Psychology and Criminology, was also a Presidential Scholar, a Truman Scholar, and a participant in the McNair Scholars Program, making her one of our highest achieving Lobos of all time, as well as our first Rhodes winner since 2001. As a Rhodes Scholar, she will begin a two-year master's program in Political Thought at the University of Oxford in England in the autumn of 2025.

I know the entire Lobo community joins me in celebrating Abrianna and her incredible accomplishment—congratulations again, Abrianna! We can't wait to follow what lies ahead for you!

And I want to say thank you to all those who provided Abrianna with the educational support, leadership, and opportunities that helped her get to this moment. UNM is committed to the success of our students – the possibilities are truly limitless for what they can achieve!

UNM Wins APLU Innovation & Economic Prosperity Award

The University of New Mexico is proud to be a member of the [Association of Public and Land-grant Universities](#) (APLU), a community of nearly 250 North American institutions committed to advancing the mission of public research universities. Our membership in APLU spotlights our dedication to increasing educational access, equity, and workforce readiness, as well as groundbreaking research and commitment to economic and community engagement.

At this year's annual APLU conference, [The University of New Mexico was honored to be named as a 2024 Innovation & Economic Prosperity Award winner](#), winning in the category of IEP Innovation for our noteworthy commitment to initiatives sparking innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-based economic development. Through initiatives overseen by [UNM Rainforest Innovations](#)—where we regularly share knowledge and resources with the private and public sector to support a start-up ecosystem—and programs like our [Tribal Entrepreneurship Enhancement program](#), which encourages innovative Native entrepreneurs, UNM is uniquely situated to ensure economic development thrives across our entire region.

I am so proud of our incredible Lobo leaders for their work, which has earned us this notable recognition and made New Mexico a better place.

UCAM Celebrates Wins in Several Industry Awards

Congratulations to UNM's [University Communication and Marketing Department](#) (UCAM)! Most recently, UCAM's podcast, [It's \(Probably\) Not Rocket Science](#), was awarded Gold and Best in Show in its category—

and [a really impressive trophy](#)—at the Cumbre Awards, hosted by the [New Mexico Public Relations Society of America](#). UCAM has also won three Best of District Awards as part of CASE's [Circle of Excellence Awards](#) and nine awards from [The University & College Designers Association \(UCDA\)](#). Congratulations to the entire UCAM team for showing how each of us genuinely defines all of us.

Native American Heritage Month Continues

As [Native American Heritage Month](#) continues through November, our [American Indian Student Services \(AISS\)](#) is pleased to make available a [calendar of ongoing events and activities](#) that continues to be updated throughout the month. Our Department of Anthropology has also created [a comprehensive website of resources related to Native American Heritage Month](#), including information on UNM organizations, Native scholars, and related news and research. You'll surely find plenty of opportunities to celebrate this vital part of our heritage as Lobos.

Woof! Woof! Woof!

What a couple of weeks it's been for our Lobo student-athletes!

Over the weekend, our [Lobo football team defeated #19 Washington State](#) in what some are already hailing as one of the most thrilling games in University Stadium in decades, as well as a pivotal moment for the Lobo football program under first-year head coach Bronco Mendenhall and his staff. Congratulations to the entire Lobo football team for a fiery performance on a chilly November evening! They'll head for warmer climates as they take on Hawaii on November 30 in Honolulu for the final game of the season, with a potential bowl bid on the line.

Lobo men's basketball is also off to a terrific start, [beating #22 UCLA in Las Vegas ten days ago](#), defending The Pit over three home games, and playing tough against #22 St. John's in Madison Square Garden yesterday morning in a much-anticipated rematch between Lobo Coach Richard Pitino and his father, St. John's coach Rick Pitino. While the [final score didn't go our way this time](#), it was another terrific and entertaining effort by the entire team. Next up, they'll tip against Grambling State in The Pit on Thursday night. Meanwhile, the [women's team racked up some impressive numbers](#) as they defended the home floor last week. They'll host South Carolina State on Wednesday night.

And for the first time in a decade—and the seventh time in Lobo history—both the men's and women's cross country teams have [qualified for the NCAA Championships](#). The men's team, which finished the regular season ranked #6 in the nation, and the women's team, which finished at #10, will be two of 62 teams who will compete in the NCAA Championship in Madison, Wisconsin, on Saturday, November 23. Congratulations to everyone involved with these two spectacular programs.

Finally, it's been a good ten days for our always-scrappy Lobo volleyball team, as they ride a four-match winning streak and remain in the hunt for a spot in the Mountain West tournament [after beating Boise State](#) last Thursday. They finish their season on the road this week, taking on San Diego State on Thursday and UNLV on Saturday. Best of luck, Lobos; we'll be rooting hard for you!

Six Health Sciences Faculty Honored with Excellence in Research Awards

Congratulations to the latest Health Sciences faculty to receive the Excellence in Research Awards, presented to researchers who advance their fields, improve lives, and help [Advance New Mexico](#). Winners were

announced in six categories and selected from more than 40 nominations.

The 2024 recipients are **Ursa Brown-Glaberman**, associate professor and vice chief for Faculty Development in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine, who received the Clinical Science award; **Changjian (Jim) Feng**, professor and assistant dean for Research in the College of Pharmacy, who received the Basic Science Research award; **Donald Godwin**, professor and dean of the UNM College of Pharmacy, recipient of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning award; **Nancy Kanagy**, professor and chair of the Department of Cell Biology & Physiology, who received the Team Science award; **Alison Kell**, assistant professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology, recipient of the Junior Faculty Research award; and Chuck Wiggins, a tenured professor in the Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Preventive Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine, who received the Population Science Research award.

Hodgin Hall Hosts Student Study Hours

As final exams approach, the doors of Hodgin Hall Alumni Center are open and welcoming student to [several study hours](#), providing Lobos with a quiet spot to work and free food and drinks—courtesy of [UNM Trailblazers](#)—to help stay fueled up. Snacks and energy drinks will be available on Monday, December 2, and pizza will be brought in on Tuesday, December 3. Show your student ID, find some peace, and maybe some pizza as you study in [UNM's oldest campus building](#).

UNMAM to Host AAMG 2025 Annual Conference

[The University of New Mexico Art Museum](#) (UNMAM) has been selected to [host the 2025 Association of Academic Museums and Galleries \(AAMG\) Annual Conference](#) from June 24–27, marking the first time the event will be held in New Mexico. Themed Belonging: Storytelling Across Campus and Community, the conference will explore belonging's role in collections, exhibitions, programs, and organizational culture. This landmark event will showcase UNM's world-class museums and collections while encouraging national dialogue among museum professionals, educators, and students. Mark your calendars for the conference now, and make a note that the [call for proposals](#) is open until November 27.

Give the Gift of Giving This Holiday Season

With winter approaching, the Dean of Students Office, in collaboration with the UNM Children's Campus and Division of Student Affairs, is hoping to make the holiday season a little brighter for Lobo students who are parents of young children through [the Little Lobo Holiday Wish Fund](#). [The fund will provide 100 Lobo families with \\$100 Amazon gift cards](#). You can donate through Sunday, December 1; eligible students can [apply here](#). Together, we hope to make the holidays a little bit warmer.

Finally, there's also still time to donate to the [UNM Gives campaign](#), which benefits the [United Way of North Central New Mexico](#). Please help us meet our goal as we work together to provide care and services for communities across our state.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President