



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



April 15, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos --

Last week, I had the pleasure of presenting at UNM's Annual Service Awards, honoring Lobo employees at major milestones in their years of service to The University of New Mexico. Along with Vice President for Human Resources Kevin Stevenson, we honored 477 Lobo faculty and staff, celebrating employees with 15, 20, 30, and 35 years of service. This year, we also paid special recognition to several employees who had served for 40, 45, and 50 years--and even one with an incredible *55 years of service to the University*.

At UNM, we take pride in knowing that our employees—both faculty and staff--embody our institutional aspirations, ideals, and excellence. Lobo employees exemplify every one of our [UNM 2040 goals](#), [advancing New Mexico](#), promoting [student experience and educational innovation](#), and truly embracing [inclusive excellence](#) and [sustainability](#). And while our diverse and dedicated employees carry out a wide variety of jobs and duties, they do it all with considerable skill and talent, and in service to [One University](#)—our university. As an institution, our Lobo employees truly make us greater than the sum of our parts.

I'm grateful to all the faculty and staff who make The University of New Mexico the remarkable institution it is today. We are a better institution for your being part of it, and I thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, for The University of New Mexico.

Nursery-Midwifery Programs Ranked 11th in Nation

UNM's College of Nursing reaffirmed its reputation as a national leader in the training of health care professionals, with *U.S. News and World Report* [ranking its Master of Science in Nursing Nurse-Midwifery program as the number 11 program in the nation](#). Our program, led by Dr. Felina Ortiz, has been recognized not only for producing highly skilled midwives, but also for its exceptional work emphasizing cultural competence and community-centered care. With the support of \$4 million in funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternity Care Program and a significant donation from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico, our midwifery program is continuing to expand its reach and resources, shaping maternal health care delivery in New Mexico for the better.

Celebrate Earth Day 2024

Next [Monday, April 22 is Earth Day](#), a time to celebrate and demonstrate support for our environment. There are many ways we can commemorate and enjoy the incredible beauty and power of our planet and the Land of Enchantment; consider visiting any of [our 35 state parks](#), attend [UNM's Sustainability Expo](#), or [New Mexico's Earth Day Festival](#).

The University of New Mexico also offers plenty of opportunities to celebrate the day by enjoying any of UNM's beautiful campuses, from the high desert of our Taos campus to the urban greenery of our Albuquerque campus. Our iconic Duck Pond—[which can trace its origins back to 1975 and did not, contrary to myth, begin as a series of puddles](#)--is an ideal place to relax, recharge, and contemplate the beauty of our

campus, and the planet. Having the good fortune to live on the Albuquerque campus has also given me an appreciation of UNM's designation as an arboretum—a living museum of hundreds of tree species, as well as a thriving testament to our [commitment to sustainability](#).

Feeling Stressed? Cuddle a Canine.

A Lobo favorite returns to University Libraries this Thursday, as [the Cuddle a Canine event, offering comfort and relaxation to the UNM community, arrives on campus](#) just in time for the end-of-semester rush. On April 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside Zimmerman Library, all members of the UNM community can interact with therapy dogs and their dedicated owners from the [Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers](#). Come unwind, relieve some stress, and enjoy the benefits of spending some time with a more-than-willing furry companion.

Dean Chircu Officially Takes the Reins at Anderson

Alina Chircu, who was announced as the new dean of UNM's Anderson School of Management [back in January](#), has officially traded the blue, gray and gold of Bentley University in Massachusetts for her Lobo cherry and silver as she [formally began in her new position at Anderson last week](#). Welcome to The University of New Mexico, Dean Chircu; we're delighted to have you here.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President