



January 6, 2024

Good afternoon Lobos -

Happy 2025, Lobos, and a warm welcome back to our faculty and staff after a well-deserved winter break. I hope you had some time to recharge and re-center and prepare for the return of our students just a little more than two weeks from today for the start of the Spring 2025 semester. I also want to thank Staff Council for putting together the annual Staff Appreciation Breakfast at the Student Union Building this morning; it was a terrific way to officially kick off 2025 at The University of New Mexico.

I know everyone is working hard across all our campuses, and across all our facilities, to get ready for the coming semester and year. Thank you for all you do; as always, it is a pleasure to work with every one of you. Here's to a successful Spring semester together, and a safe and productive 2025.

Looking Back as We Look Forward

While I'm looking to the coming year with optimism and excitement, I am equally as proud of all that we achieved at The University of New Mexico over the last year. I hope you'll take a moment, then, to look through some of the notable highlights from 2024 as compiled by our UNM Newsroom, including some of our [biggest news stories](#), a review of some of our most [groundbreaking research](#), and the [life-changing accomplishments of our Health Sciences Center](#). As a Research 1 flagship university, we take considerable pride in all that we do to change lives, improve our communities, and transform the world around us. It was a good year, and I'm looking forward to working with all of you to make 2025 even better.

Welcome Jason Eck as New Head Football Coach

Get ready to bring a new level of energy and enthusiasm to University Stadium! After a national search, Athletic Director Fernando Lovo has named [Jason Eck as the new head coach of the UNM football program](#).

Jason comes to us from the University of Idaho, where his commitment to steady improvement and building a program brought the Vandals to national prominence and several

playoff appearances. Coach Eck also has a proven record of putting the student-athlete first, ensuring our students are successful both on and off the field. It is a pleasure to welcome Coach Eck and his family to New Mexico! I look forward to seeing all of you in University Stadium on September 6th as we mark the beginning of an exciting new era of Lobo football.



Johnny Tibbetts Graphic Illustration

Lobo Welcome Center Wins Prestigious Design Award

A nice honor recently went to The University of New Mexico's Lobo Welcome Center as it received the

[American Institute of Architect's Merit Award for Remodel and Adaptive Use](#), highlighting the exceptional redesign by McClain + Yu Architecture and Design. Jurors hailed the seamless transformation of our historic 1941 John Gaw Meem dormitory into a modern facility that remains faithful to New Mexico's architectural heritage and noted the center's careful merging of a thoroughly modern interior with a traditional adobe exterior. I'm so proud to see our facilities achieve this recognition, which affirms our institutional commitment to sustainability and innovation while complementing our unique campus landscape.



Welcoming Two New Regents

Late last week Governor Lujan Grisham announced several new regent appointments at higher education institutions in New Mexico. On behalf of the entire Lobo community, it is my pleasure to welcome the newest members of The University of New Mexico Board of Regents, **Christina R. Campos** and **Patricia G. Williams**, pending their confirmation by the New Mexico Senate. The new regents will be replacing **Kim Sanchez Rael** and **Robert Schwartz**, both of whom have served the board and The University of New Mexico with distinction for the last six years. It has been a privilege to work with them, and I look forward to celebrating their contributions in the coming weeks as their terms come to an end. I look forward to working with our newest regents to continue UNM's successful rise as an institution with substantial and meaningful impact on New Mexico and our global society.



Remembering Fred Harris

Finally, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the life and legacy of [Fred Harris, a former United States Senator, activist, and longtime professor at The University of Mexico](#), who [passed away late last year](#). As a great believer in the sanctity of American democracy and a staunch advocate for the legislative process, he helped shape UNM's political

science program and, through the [Fred Harris Congressional Internship program](#), created opportunities for Lobo students to learn the legislative process first-hand through internships with members of our Congressional delegation. It was our privilege to have him call New Mexico home for five decades, and we are proud that his legacy will live on at The University of New Mexico.

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

Garnett S. Stokes

President