



February 10, 2025

Good afternoon Lobos –

This Wednesday, February 12, The University of New Mexico will host [UNM Big Give, a 24-hour fundraising event rallying alumni, friends, and supporters worldwide](#). This initiative highlights the power of collective giving, supporting key academic, healthcare, athletic, cultural, and student programs that define UNM's diverse community.



The 2024 campaign set records, engaging 2,527 donors and raising \$800,000, the largest single-day fundraising achievement in UNM history. UNM Athletics' *Lobos Give Day* contributed \$356,000 for student-athlete scholarships, exceeding its goal.

This year, participants can direct their support to vital causes such as the Student Health and Counseling Center, UNM Grand Challenges, and patient care. Contributions can be made [online](#), through purchases at UNM Food locations, or by attending special events like the men's basketball game that evening, where we're also hosting the teddy bear toss as part of our annual [BeKind Week](#). There are also opportunities to [name any of our UNM Duck Pond residents](#) or take part in several [Big Give Challenges and Matches](#).

The Big Give begins at midnight on February 12, so mark your calendars and be part of this transformative day. Together, we can make the 2025 UNM Big Give the most impactful yet!



Lobo Educator Receives Highest Honor for K-12 STEM Teachers

Congratulations to **Tara Palomares**, a high school math teacher and doctoral student in UNM's Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education Program, who has [received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#) –the nation's highest honor for K-12 STEM educators. She credits her success to her students, mentors, and colleagues, emphasizing her passion for educator development. Through UNM's program, she is hoping to train and mentor future teachers to elevate education in New Mexico. Palomares was selected as a finalist and award winner by the previous administration and will receive a certificate signed by former President Biden at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in the near future.

UNM Secures \$1.02M Grant to Boost Early Childhood Home Visits

Exciting things continue to happen with our [Grand Challenges](#), as our Child Health Grand Challenges research team has [received a \\$1.02 million, three-year grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to increase family participation in New Mexico's early childhood home visiting programs](#). These programs provide critical support to pregnant individuals and families with young children yet remain underutilized statewide. Led by Dr. Theresa Cruz, Deputy Director of the UNM Prevention Research Center and Child Health Grand Challenge team convener, the study will test cash and non-cash incentives to boost recruitment and retention, while evaluating messaging strategies to reduce stigma. Their findings will inform state agencies and policymakers, shaping efforts to improve maternal, child health, and family well-being across New Mexico. It's all part of our ongoing effort to improve the quality of life in our state and [Advance New Mexico](#).

UNM Joins \$10M USDOT Project on Rural Autonomous Freight Systems

Faculty from our School of Engineering and Health Sciences Center will collaborate with UC Berkeley on [a \\$10 million, six-year U.S. Department of Transportation grant](#) to enhance freight logistics in rural and Tribal communities using automated vehicle technology. Led by Assistant Professor Lisa Losada-Rojas, UNM's role in the project, called *ACCEL-RT: Autonomous Cargo Carriers for Enhanced Logistics in Rural & Tribal Areas*, includes community-based research, asset mapping, and needs assessments. This major initiative aims to improve transportation access, economic development, and supply chain resilience in underserved areas along the I-40 corridor. This groundbreaking effort spotlights UNM's leadership in innovative transportation solutions and will help identify and bridge critical infrastructure gaps across rural America.



Les Mis Comes to the Lobo Living Room

Discover the magic behind the world's most popular musical in the Lobo Living Room! UNM alumni can purchase discounted tickets to the Wednesday, February 19 performance of *Les Misérables* at Popejoy Hall. There are also a few seats left for the free pre-show event, *Dream a Dream: A Conversation with the Cast of Les Misérables*. As part of UNM Alumni's [Lobo Living Room Series](#), this exclusive presentation will give you a behind-the-scenes look at the show's powerful themes, historical context, and the iconic artistry behind this Tony Award-winning production. Space is limited and tickets are going fast, so [reserve your spot and purchase your tickets](#) to the performance today!

BeKind UNM 2025 Celebrates Kindness on Campus

For 16 years, BeKind UNM has fostered kindness and civility on campus, and this year's celebration continues the tradition with engaging events and donation drives. [The 2025 BeKind UNM Celebration kicks off on February 12](#) with the Kindness Carnival

**BeKind
UNM Week**

Feb. 10-14



from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the SUB Atrium, featuring games, therapy dogs, and a Lobo Food Pantry donation drive. The popular Teddy Bear Toss will take place at the Lobo men's basketball game on February 12 and during the women's game on February 22, with donated stuffed animals benefiting children statewide who are in crisis. Join the movement and help spread kindness across Lobo Nation!

Applications Now Being Accepted for UNM Alumni Scholarships

Great news for our Lobo students: money for academic expenses is now available, courtesy of the [UNM Alumni Association](#). [Applications are now being accepted for UNM Alumni scholarships](#), available to Lobo undergraduate and graduate students. Scholarships are awarded based on factors including academic achievement, community involvement, employment experiences, areas of study, and financial need. During the last round of scholarships in 2024, UNM Alumni provided awards to 37 recipients, providing a combined \$23,800 in financial aid to support future Lobo graduates. The application deadline is March 31; recipients will be notified between May and June.



Sign Up for Traveling Office Hours

I always appreciate the opportunity to have a conversation about The University of New Mexico with those who know and understand it best: you. I regularly hold traveling office hours, which provide me with the privilege of coming directly to you to learn more about your concerns and aspirations for our university, and I'm always inspired by hearing about your lives as Lobos. Traveling office hours are on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., and if you'd like me to come to your department, [please send an invitation through my office](#). Slots tend to fill up fast—but if none are available, please add your name to the waiting list. I look forward to our conversation!

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President