

## Message from the VP



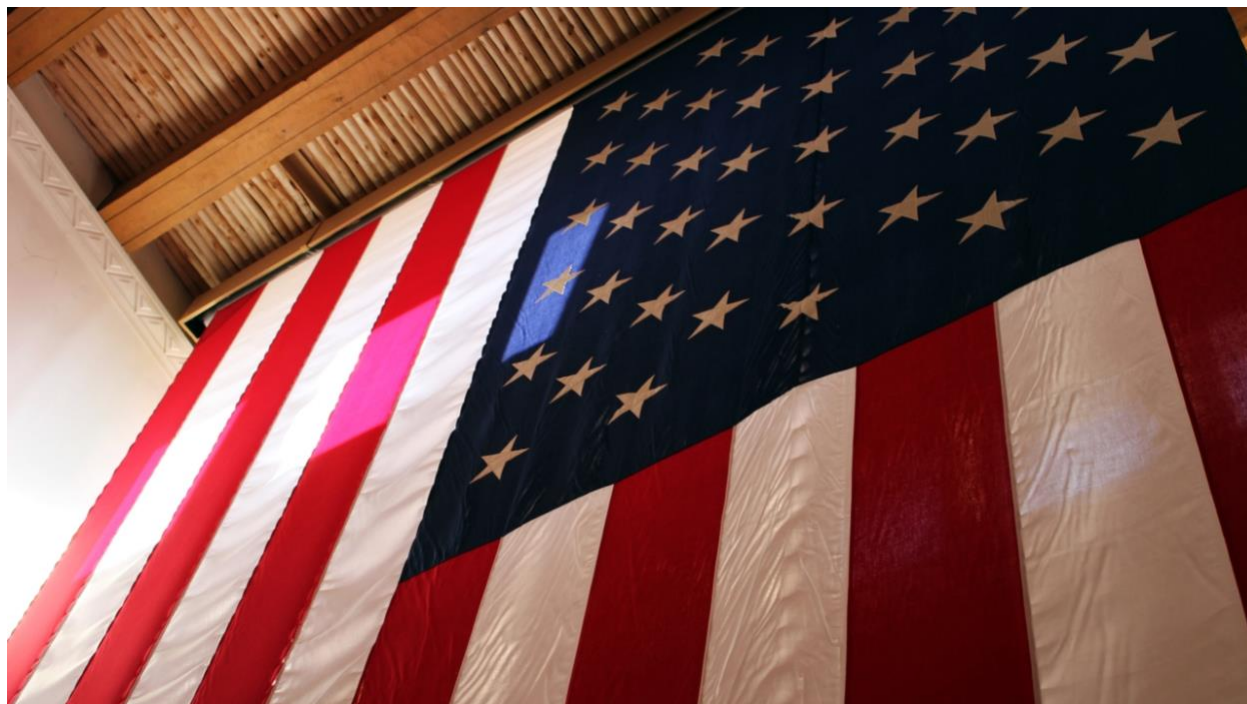
Dear Colleagues,

As I return from the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities annual meeting, I am once again invigorated and inspired by our public mission to Advance New Mexico, as our UNM 2040 goal one clearly defines. Hearing how my colleagues across the country are working vigorously in their own communities was inspiring and I was proud to be able to articulate the ways in which the student experience at UNM is grounded in place, people, and culture while also being poised to create the future leaders of our state, country, and world. I am honored to be part of your important work in this very special place. On that note, I want to congratulate American Indian Student Services on their successful American Indian Student Day with over 400 students from across New Mexico visiting our campus to learn about the opportunities that await them in post-secondary education. I also want to offer my special congratulations to the Veterans and Military Resource Center for helping UNM achieve the 2023 Military Times Best for Vets College designation, ranking 15th in the nation.

Next week we will take a break from the CONNECT as we have a short week due to the holiday. Please know that I am grateful for your work and appreciate everything you will do for our students in the closing weeks of the semester when we return.

With appreciation,  
Eric

# UNM Ranks Top 20 Best for Vets College Designation



The University of New Mexico has earned the 2023 Military Times Best for Vets College designation, ranking 15th in the nation. The ranking comes from survey data collected from colleges and universities based on services and amenities they offer veterans. Rankings are based on the school's veteran-specific offerings including admissions preferences, priority registration, mental health services, career counseling, academic support, VA work-study options, financial assistance and other services.

Based on its commitment to its military-affiliated students via services for veterans, active military and their families, and the consistently high rankings from Military Times, UNM has become a desired destination for this population.

The UNM Veteran and Military Resource Center (VMRC), led by Director Alonzo Maestas is dedicated to offering the highest quality and comprehensive support to military-affiliated students.

"We are once again honored and humbled to receive a Best for Vets designation," Maestas said. "The VMRC staff's dedication to helping military-affiliated students, along with UNM's commitment to serve the military-affiliated population, is in my eyes unparalleled."

The University of New Mexico is a Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) mentoring program partner. VMRC provides an embedded mental health counselor to help veterans and the military community overcome mental health obstacles to aid them in academic success. Mental

health benefits include stress-management/meditation sessions or workshops, peer support-group meetings, special learning/testing accommodations and referrals to the VA and other off-campus services.

“We want our students to feel seen, respected, and valued, and we strive to help them transition to life as a college student, succeed in their academic journey, and continue on to graduate school or their chosen professions,” Maestas said.

Students are also eligible to apply for scholarships specifically for veterans that can be used after the veteran has exhausted his or her VA education benefits. They can utilize an array of financial services including counseling on DoD/VA benefits and financial aid and forms processing assistance.

Visit the [VMRC website](#) to learn more about their services. To learn more about the rankings visit the [MilitaryTimes Best for Vets website](#).

## NSO Discover UNM Fair



Spring 2023 -24 Discover Fair					
Session Title	Day	Date	Time	Population	Location
NSO – <i>To-Go!</i> <i>Spring 1</i>	Friday	November 17th	10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (Set up 15 mins. before)	First-Year & Transfer students	Zoom
NSO – <i>In-Person</i> <i>Spring 2</i>	Wednesday	December 13th	9:45 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. (Set up 15 mins. before)	First-Year & Transfer students	SUB
NSO – <i>In-Person</i> <i>Spring 3</i>	Tuesday	January 9th	9:45 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. (Set up 15 mins. before)	First-Year & Transfer students	SUB
NSO – <i>To-Go!</i> <i>Spring 4</i>	Friday	January 12th	10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (Set up 15 mins. before)	First-Year & Transfer students	Zoom

New Student Orientation would like to invite your department, program, or organization to participate in our Discover UNM Fair! Discover UNM is a tabling event that is designed to introduce incoming students and their guests to the various services and opportunities that UNM has to offer. This event takes place during each of our orientation programs.

During our Spring 2024 programming, students will be able to complete orientation in the format of their choice: *NSO... In-Person!* or *NSO... To-Go!* For our In-Person! events, participants will learn about your program and services by visiting your booth at the SUB. For our *To-Go!* events, participants will learn about your program and services by visiting a virtual booth (designed by you) and connecting with your team via Zoom!

Visit our Campus Partners page to learn more, join our listservs, and/or sign-up to participate in Discover UNM! Join us for a virtual meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 10 a.m. via Zoom: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/93021169619> NSO staff will answer questions and offer a demo of the vFairs platform during the meeting.

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## 2023 Lobos Got Talent Winners



Last week I had the honor of participating as a judge for this year's Lobo's Got Talent competition, We have some very talented Lobos and I'd like to congratulate this years winners:

- 1st place and audience choice - Junie Huber for vocal and keyboard on her original song "Grey"
  - 2nd place: Sage Gonzales Lambert - Ballet Folklorico
  - 3rd place: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. - "Saw X" - original choreography and strolling
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# Little Lobo Holiday Wish Fund



Help us spread joy to some of our **student parents** this season!

**Little  
Lobo**  
Holiday  
Wish Fund



We hope to help **100** student parents with **\$100** gift cards just in time for the holidays!

Scan to make a donation of any amount until Friday, Dec. 11, 2023



In the spirit of giving, let's come together as a division to make the holiday season a little brighter for some of our student parents this year! The Dean of Students Office has created The Little Lobo Holiday Wish Fund in collaboration with the UNM Children's Campus to raise \$10,000 to give \$100 gift cards to 100 of our student families.

Please consider making a donation of any amount via the [Little Lobo Holiday Wish Fund page](#) between now and December 15 to help us meet our goal. Gift cards will be distributed to our student families with enough time to make their holidays extra special for their little Lobo(s).

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## UNM Mandatory Training Reminder



Just a reminder that all employees are required to complete the following mandatory training through [UNM's Learning Central platform](#) by Friday, Dec. 1.

- Active Shooter on Campus: Run, Hide, Fight - 2023 for Curriculum UNMMT 2023E
- Basic Annual Safety Training - 2023 for Curriculum UNMMT 2023E
- Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Gateway 2023

Please log in to <https://learningcentral.unm.edu> to complete the training.

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## UCAM Seeking Inspiring Grad Stories

As part of fall commencement, the University Communication and Marketing (UCAM) team highlights Lobos who showed exceptional leadership, courage, dedication and endurance during their time at UNM. These inspirational graduates come from all walks of life – different colleges, programs and extracurriculars.

If you know of an inspiring grad that you would like to nominate for the Inspiring Grad series, please send the person's name, major, and contact information as well as a short paragraph (few sentences) with details of their inspiring story to the UNM News email account at [unmnews@unm.edu](mailto:unmnews@unm.edu) by Wednesday, Nov. 22.