

Message from the VP



Dear Student Affairs Colleagues,

I am excited to share that UNM Big Give Day is officially underway! Already this morning several funds within Student Affairs have received philanthropic support from UNM faculty, staff, alumni, and community stakeholders. UNM BigGive offers 24 hours to show just how much support there is for the incredible work that we do in support of students. This year, every Student Affairs unit has at least one fund they are supporting, so please share the good work and opportunity for giving widely in your circles, in particular those who are invested in the success of UNM students and the impact that success can have on the state of New Mexico. We were recently witness to the generosity of our community at the annual BeKind UNM Teddy Bear Toss(es). Let's show our kindness one more time by promoting UNM Big Give and supporting our students!

With appreciation,
Eric



UNM Big Give is TODAY

Just a reminder that [UNM Big Give](#) is **today!** From 12 a.m. today, you have 24 hours to help our Lobos by participating in UNM Big Give.

Please consider giving to [Student Affairs services and programming](#). By investing in Student Affairs, students are empowered to become more resilient, productive, and prosperous degree completers while also experiencing an enhanced sense of purpose and belonging. Any program, or department of your choosing can benefit from your gifts, no matter how large or small.

Check out the [video on KRQE](#) featuring Ryan Lindquist discussing the impact that Big Give has on UNM.

DSA American Indian Student Services Director Search



The Division of Student Affairs at The University of New Mexico is seeking a culturally responsive and collaborative professional to lead American Indian Student Services (AISS). AISS serves as the primary student support service program for prospective and currently attending students and specializes in the creation and implementation of programmatic initiatives providing academic, cultural, and social support to ensure student success. Leading American Indian recruitment and retention efforts, developing student leadership opportunities, and strengthening partnerships with New Mexico tribal constituencies are additional components of the department's work.

The individual selected for this role will provide strategic direction, consultation, and support to the university community in developing integrated approaches for best addressing the educational needs, prospects, and related concerns of American Indian/Indigenous students and allies. The AISS Director is also responsible for assisting the university in providing an environment that promotes a welcoming and dynamic atmosphere that results in greater advancement and empowerment of Native students. Direct oversight of a variety of programs and initiatives associated with American Indian/Indigenous student success and belonging; carrying out student development best practices, empirical research, and cultural knowledge; and centering student advocacy are all critical elements of the role.

Visit [UNM Jobs webpage](#) for more information and to apply. Best consideration date is **Friday, March 15**.

AASS Black History Month Student Spotlight

As African American Student Services continues their [Black History Month celebration](#), the CONNECT is spotlighting some of our Black student leaders throughout February who have been recognized for their service by both AASS and Africana Studies this year. This week, we feature Kristian Thomas.

Kristian Thomas

Kristian is a junior majoring in Architecture. She is an active member of the Black Student Union, Powerful Movement of Educated Sistas, National Society of BlackEngineers, 2023 Summer Bridge Academy Counselor and serves as the Vice President of the Eta Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Student leaders have been the catalyst in the improvement of the Black student experience at the University of New Mexico. Kristian Thomas embodies this spirit as an active student leader in various organizations in African American Student Services. She has supported various events and found unique ways to contribute to Black student organizations. Kristian does not shy away from a challenge and has been instrumental in rebuilding relationships amongst various organizations. She has taken the initiative to inform AASS on re-inventing various elements of Afro programming to meet the changing needs of students. Kristian's involvement extends beyond the university as she is actively involved in the larger Albuquerque community, she has previously volunteered at the Roadrunner Foodbank and participated in Teach-Ins on various Albuquerque Public School campuses.



DSA Strategic Priorities Input

During our February 2 All Staff Gathering, DSA staff were asked to participate in an activity to provide feedback on conceptual strategic priorities in alignment with UNM 2040. The activity was designed to understand DSA staff perspectives and expertise to guide the future of the division.

During the in-person activity, staff were provided a bag of beads and asked to distribute them among the six pre-defined focus areas and their sub-goals ranking their importance by the number of beads they put for each goal.

As we continue to define our priorities, [you are invited use this form](#) to participate in a virtual, anonymous, bead activity to provide input and rank the priorities and sub-goals depending on importance to you.

Thank you to the team at Student Health and Counseling for creating this survey and sharing with us to use division-wide!

Validating First-Generation Student Experiences Through Transformative Leadership webinar



Learning outcomes:

- identify and understand deficit-based frameworks.
- interpret and practice applying asset-based approaches and frameworks;
- review and assess current practices to design and implement transformative experiences.

Please RSVP [here](#) by Tuesday, March 26.

Student Affairs staff are invited to join SSS TRIO for the Validating First-Generation Student Experiences Through Transformative Leadership webinar, presented by the NASPA Center for First-Generation Student Success on Tuesday, April 2, from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Mirage/Thunderbird room in the SUB. Lunch will be provided.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn:

- how to identify and understand deficit-based frameworks
- interpret and practice applying asset-based approaches and frameworks
- review and assess current practices to design and implement transformative experiences

Please see attached flyer and visit the [First-Generation for Student Success webpage](#) for all the details. Please [RSVP here](#) by Tuesday, March 26.

Well-being in Higher Education: Raising Literacy and Advancing the Conversation



“Well-being in Higher Education: Raising Literacy and Advancing the Conversation” is a free, virtual event taking place February 26 - March 1, 2024. Over 20 associations are collaborating with a goal to raise the literacy for well-being among higher education professionals and to advance conversation among colleagues on and across campuses. Registration is now open! Please take a look at the schedule below and ensure you are available and interested in attending, then register using the information in the Registration section.



Celebrate UNM's 135 Birthday

February 28, 2024
11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Cornell Mall

Celebrate UNM's 135th trip around the sun! Free t-shirts for the first 135 students with a Lobo ID. There will also be free stickers, cookies and more! This year there will be a climbing wall and Boba Tea. Information tables from UNM Departments associated with Space! Lobo Day photo at Noon!

Celebrate Women Making History during Women's History Month



In celebration of Women's History Month, The Women's Resource Center is asking the UNM community to help celebrate and acknowledge all the amazing women & femmes on campus by sharing your story of her with them. Click [here](#) to share your video with them. Submissions close on Thursday, Feb. 29 at 11:59 P.M.
