

## Message from the Vice President



Dr. Scott with students at the Leadership and Involvement Awards Ceremony.

Dear Student Affairs Colleagues,

On Friday, President Stokes shared the annual State of the University address. I left with a continued and renewed sense of pride and gratitude to be part of the expansive and ever-evolving work of The University of New Mexico.

In a time of uncertainty, President Stokes said it best: “Although we may need to adapt to new realities, we will not compromise on the core values that define us.” That includes inclusive excellence, Goal 3 of the UNM 2040 Opportunity Defined strategic framework.

Our own strategic planning process, which has taken place over the course of the past 15 months, has revealed and elevated much about our work in Student Affairs and the passion, knowledge, philosophies, and values that guide us. A consistent theme is an ever-present commitment to student success, and in New Mexico, that inherently means serving a diverse student population. To do this in an equitable way requires an intersection of evidence-based practices and deep human empathy and connection attending to the student as a whole person. These traits of our work also showed prominently in our participatory engagement across the division under the guidance of six working groups. I think we have a lot to teach the world about how to care for people.

I believe that our programs and departments in the division are exemplars of matching highly ethical professional practice with the organic creation of an inclusive environment. We are innovative, equitable, and culturally responsive while staying grounded in a sense of place and tradition. That is why we must lead, together, by continuing to demonstrate the efficacy of

our core values and practices. Every successful Lobo is one more piece of proof, and so we endure. I look forward to sharing more about our emerging strategic plan this Friday at our spring all-staff gathering. I hope to see you there.

With appreciation,

Eric

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## Amanda Butrum Set to Retire at the End of the Month



When Amanda Butrum, director for the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC), reflects on her nearly 20-year career at The University of New Mexico, and her life in general, she often thinks back to a quote by Henry David Thoreau—18<sup>th</sup> Century writer, philosopher, naturalist, and advocate for a simple, principled living environment. “If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.”

“I first heard that quote when I was 8 years old as part of an assignment at school,” Butrum said. “It really touched me, and I’ve remembered it ever since.” She was so inspired by the quote that she decided to illustrate it in a drawing where she sketched a row of marching drummers with one marching upside down—her school used her drawing in a brochure.

She’s used Thoreau’s quote as her professional and personal mantra ever since. “It says that it’s ok to be different and unique, and be true to who you are,” she said. “It’s ok to go ahead and march to the beat of your own drum.”

Butrum is set to retire from UNM at the end of February, where she spent the entirety of her time with the Accessibility Resource Center. Her first and longest role with ARC was overseeing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services for 14 years, and she is finishing out her career as the Center’s director—a position she’s held for the last 5 years.

Her professional journey, however, started in her home state of California where she served as an American Sign Language Interpreter (ASL), then subsequently moved on to lead other universities' Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services departments for twelve years leading up to her time at UNM.

"When I started working as an ASL interpreter, we didn't have the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)—laws were in place, but not as strong back then," Butrum remembered. "Deaf people were denied several rights including access and interpreters before the ADA was passed."

In 1990, the ADA was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush, making it the first comprehensive civil rights law for people with disabilities in the world—something Butrum said gave people with disabilities rights to what they're allowed to and what they deserve.

"I was glad to see the segway from a medical model where people with disabilities were considered 'broken' and needing to fix themselves to a social justice movement to create spaces where everyone can participate," she said.

As she gets ready to retire and spend more time on the beach—after sleeping in, of course, she's had time to reflect on her journey at UNM, the lessons she's learned, the friends she's made, and the legacy—said without an ounce of egotism—she's hoping she leaves behind.

[read full story](#)


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## Serving and Advocating for Undocumented Students Training Sessions

El Centro invites you to learn about:  
**Serving & Advocating for Undocumented Students**

Staff, faculty and students are invited to join the conversation! Limited seating available, please pre-register by clicking [Here](#)

Thursday, Feb. 20th	Wednesday, Feb. 26th
Training: 3:30-4:30 PM	Training: 12:00-1:00 PM
Q&A: 4:30-5:00 PM	Q&A: 1:00-1:30 PM
Location: McKinnon 2120	Location: Anthropology 163

 For more information contact us at:  
(505)277-5020 | [elcentro@unm.edu](mailto:elcentro@unm.edu)

El Centro is offering two campus-wide training sessions about how to best serve undocumented students. The flyer and direct link to register are below. Please note that due to the nature of the topic there currently is not an online/hybrid session.

Direct registration

link: <https://forms.gle/iR11NtLvX7LwPfk6>

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## Student Affairs Spring All Staff Gathering This Friday



Just a reminder that this spring's Division All Staff Gathering is scheduled for this Friday, Feb. 28 from 8 to 11 a.m. in the SUB Ballroom C. As this semester's All Staff Gathering aligns with Lobo Day, you are encouraged to wear your favorite Lobo red shirt. Please use the calendar invite as your RSVP if you haven't done so yet. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

## Happy Birthday UNM!



The University of New Mexico invites the campus community to celebrate UNM's 136th Birthday Party at Lobo Day 2025. The annual event takes place Friday, Feb. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

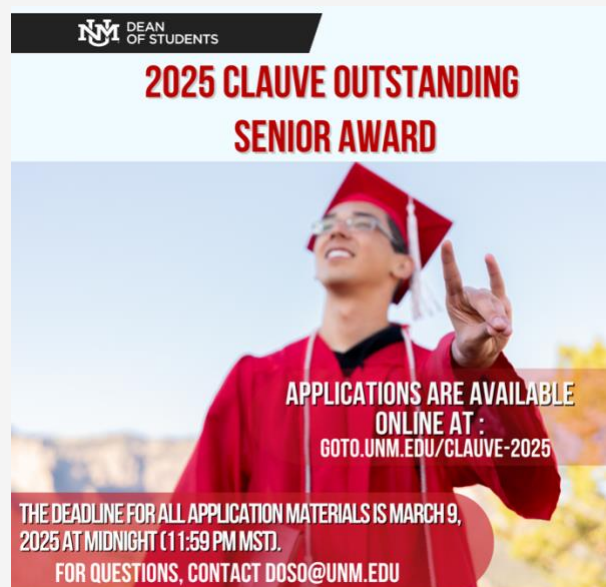
To celebrate turning the big 1-3-6, the first 136 students with a Lobo ID will receive an iconic Lobo Day T-shirt. This year there will be two new activities for students to take part in! Take a birthday themed photo in our 260-degree



photo booth and build a friendship bracelet featuring Lobo charms (available on a first come, first serve basis)! Cake will be served, and even if you aren't among the first 136 students to show up to get a shirt, you can still be part of the big group photo as long as you wear cherry red. Faculty and staff wearing red are also welcome to join the picture.

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## 2025 Clauve Outstanding Senior Awards



This year the Clauve Outstanding Senior Award will again be presented to outstanding senior students who have performed well academically and made significant contributions to the general welfare of the campus community through their involvement in student organizations and activities. This award is for undergraduate baccalaureate students from the Albuquerque campus, who are graduating this May or December of 2025.

If you know an outstanding student who you think might be eligible, please encourage them to apply, and please distribute the attached advertisement/graphic through your networks, social media channels, and list serves to help us target eligible students. [Click here to apply.](#)