

Message from the VP



Dear Student Affairs Colleagues,

Happy 100th edition of the CONNECT! Sharing weekly reflections, updates, and opportunities with the division staff and key stakeholders was a tradition I was glad to continue upon assuming the role of VPSA a year and a half ago. What began as a newsletter has evolved into a key communication mechanism that helps create awareness and cohesion across our teams. I want to take a moment to recognize Dorene DiNaro from the VPSA office who among other things has written many of the stories and features for the CONNECT, completed a full redesign of the CONNECT in the fall of 2022, and ensures that this and other division publications are shared widely and professionally on a consistent basis. I am excited for what is to come in the next 100 editions!

In the spirit of connections, I want to thank everyone for their engagement at the All Staff Gathering on Friday. We learned more about who we are as a division and what assets we bring to our collective, celebrated employee service milestones, discussed key updates in the division including preparations for UNM Big Give Day, explored survey results, and dove deeper into the next steps in our strategic planning process. We are actively processing results and are looking forward to the next engagement opportunities!

With appreciation,
Eric

Open Call: DSA Strategic Planning Workgroup



The Division of Student Affairs is seeking interested staff members to contribute to the *Engage to Innovate* strategic planning process. Workgroup members will inform the direction of the division's strategic plan by participating in focused planning sessions to help develop recommendations for DSA's mission, vision, values, strategic priorities, and action plans.

Fill out [this form](#) to demonstrate your interest in serving as a member of the strategic planning team.

Submit by **Friday, February 16, 2024** for best consideration.

Celebrate BeKind UNM Week Feb. 12-16

BeKind UNM Week
February 12-16, 2024

BeKind UNM Celebration Schedule

Sunday Jan. 28	Men's Lobo Game Teddy Bear Toss 8 p.m. The Pit
Wednesday Feb. 14	Kindness Carnival 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. SUB Atrium
	Women's Lobo Game Teddy Bear Toss vs. SJSU 7 p.m. The Pit

BeKind UNM Campus Partner Events

Feb. 1-12	CHWI Food Drive to Benefit the Lobo Food Pantry
Feb. 12-15	UNM Valencia Campus BeKind UNM Events
Feb. 13 & 15	UNM Online Listening Sessions

For over 15 years the BeKind UNM committee has hosted the annual [BeKind UNM celebration](#) during National Random Acts of Kindness week in February to help promote kindness and civility on campus. All Lobos are invited to help spread kindness again next week at the BeKind UNM [Kindness Carnival](#), Teddy Bear Toss at the [women's Lobo basketball game](#), and a number of other events hosted by our campus partners.

This year's Kindness Carnival will also feature a donation drive for the [Lobo Food Pantry](#). Participants can bring a donation for the pantry for their chance to win a one-month parking pass from UNM Parking and Transportation Services.

In case you missed it, fans brought hundreds of stuffed animals to to the [Men's Lobo Basketball game on January 28](#) to donate for a good cause. All donations will be distributed to APD and AFR and other organizations around the city to give to those experiencing traumatic situations. Three fans each won one of our grand prize baskets.

You can still try your luck at the [women's Lobo basketball game](#). Fans are asked to bring a NEW stuffed animal to the game and participate in the toss at half-time for their chance to one of the grand prize baskets which include one of the following: gift cards from the UNM Bookstore, Dions, Christy Maes, Popejoy tickets, a lobo quilt, and swag from Zia Graphics, UNM Athletics, Children's Campus, Staff Council and other campus departments and partners.



Little Lobo Holiday Wish Fund Exceeds Goal!

In December 2023, the Dean of Students Office created the [Little Lobo Holiday Wish Fund](#)(LLHWF), which provides gift cards to student parents to make the holidays a little brighter. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, the LLHWF raised \$14,120 from 65 donors, exceeding their \$10K goal. The money was used to purchase \$100 gift cards that were distributed to student parents.

Greg Golden, associate dean of student wellbeing, helped distributed the cards and said that the students were grateful and excited to receive them. "It was exciting to watch families trickle in with their children to express how grateful they were to receive the help," said Golden. "It was the best part of my holiday season!"

Student parents make up about 22% of college campus populations nationwide. Many study parents make sacrifices to support themselves and their family through the financial aid and loans they receive, along with the hours they work when not in class or with their children.

The University of New Mexico supports its student parents via various services including childcare at the UNM Children's Campus; and lactation stations, family-friendly computer pods, student-led workshops, SNAP application assistance and free counseling and confidential advisory through the Women's Resource Center.

Donations raised this past year will help to kickstart the fund for 2024's holiday season. The Dean of Students Office, UNM Children's Campus, and Student Affairs are eager to do it again this year.

FAFSA Completions Assistance



The College Enrichment Program will host FAFSA Tuesdays January through March to help students complete their Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. UNM priority date is Friday, March 1, 2024.

El Mezquite Scholarship



Students are encouraged to [apply](#) for The El Mezquite Scholarship. The scholarship is designed to provide financial assistance to students currently enrolled at The University of New Mexico. The

selection committee will base scholarships on educational achievement, leadership qualities, a written essay, and a strong need for financial assistance. Scholarship awards of \$1,000 will be awarded for the spring semester.

AASS Black History Month Student Spotlight

As African American Student Services continues their [Black History Month celebration](#), the CONNECT will be 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 Nakia Jackson.

Nakia is a senior majoring in Africana Studies and Signed Language Interpreting at the University of New Mexico. She is a 2020 African American Student Services Summer Bridge Academy Scholar, a 2022 African American Student Services Award recipient and has served in various executive roles including UNM's student government ASUNM, the Black Student Union, the NM Black Student Alliance Youth Council, the Multicultural Greek Council and the Tau Phi chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

The leadership of Nakia Jackson has been exhibited in both virtual and physical spaces. She was a member of the virtual cohort of the African American Student Services Summer Bridge Academy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Upon completion of the Summer Bridge Academy Nakia became a mentee for the Black Over Student Success (B.O.S.S.) Program where she took advantage of various opportunities to grow as a student leader. She then dove into the executive leadership roles within the Black Student Union where she assisted in holding space for Black students to connect during the pandemic and supported the organization's transition back to in person operations. Her dedication to both building community and achieving academic excellence while at UNM have set an example of what it means to be a dynamic student leader at the University of New Mexico.



Lena Clauve Outstanding Senior Award



2024

UNM DEAN OF STUDENTS

CLAUVE OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

APPLICATIONS ARE
AVAILABLE ONLINE AT :
[GOTO.UNM.EDU/CLAUVE24](https://goto.unm.edu/clauve24)

APPLY NOW 

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS IS MARCH 6,
2024 AT MIDNIGHT (11:59 PM MST). IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS,
CONTACT DOSO@UNM.EDU

The poster features a black and white photograph of a statue of a person's head and shoulders, looking upwards, set against a background of trees and a building.

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 2024.

If you know an outstanding student who you think might be eligible, please encourage them to apply via the [Dean of Students website](#) and directly at <https://goto.unm.edu/clauve24>. Application deadline is Wednesday, March 6 at midnight, and any letters of recommendation are turned in digitally via: CLAUVE@UNM.EDU.

Join LGBTQ+ Resource Center's Waffle Breakfast



Radical Queer Love

WAFFLE BREAKFAST

Wednesday, February 14th 8-10am

1919 Las Lomas Rd.

*vegan and to-go options available

The poster has a rainbow gradient background. It features a rainbow flag icon with a heart in the top left, a waffle icon in the top right, and another waffle icon in the bottom left.