

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 | Edition #140

Message from the Vice President



VPSA staff and campus partners at the Pack's Got Your Back event on Friday, March 7.

Dear Student Affairs Colleagues,

We have reached the halfway point of the semester and spring break is just around the corner. On the other side of spring break, we enter the annual gambit of celebrations, recognitions, and fun events that lead us all the way to commencement. Commencement is my favorite time of the year because it is so affirming to see students who have successfully completed their journey with us as they propel to the next step in their lives. I was recently asked to comment on college preparation and readiness through the scope of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) act and how Student Affairs can best support students from a myriad of backgrounds in a successful college experience. I want to share with you my reflections on that topic:

For many students and their families, access to and support in completing a postsecondary education is one of the most effective mechanisms by which they can expand their life chances and positively impact life outcomes. For those students, resources that help contextualize the postsecondary experience, activities or messaging that helps identify

goals and motivations, programs that strengthen a sense of belonging and self-efficacy, and interventions that strengthen strong academic and personal wellbeing practices are key to optimizing the opportunity and likelihood of successful college access, completion, and postgraduate success. For this reason, our division has prioritized the implementation of culturally responsive and evidence-based practices with attention to the diverse and distinct needs of University of New Mexico students. Through assessment and continuous improvement, we are constantly finding mechanisms by which we can better serve students with an asset-based approach that affirms their skills, identities, values, and aspirations across a myriad of support units in a coordinated and collaborative environment.

I believe our programs and services continue to be aligned with this lodestar. Our work, to put it simply, is all about student success and since student success is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, so too are we and we must continue to be. I am proud to be engaged in this work with you and will endeavor to continue to strengthen it in service to our students and community.

With appreciation,

Eric

Campus Community Launches Pack's Got Your Back Initiative



Henry Ford, Ford Motor Company founder, once said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." As Lobos, we have a longstanding tradition of coming together, keeping together, and working together during times of significant stress.

In an effort to embrace those who might not be feeling the sense of belonging on campus that The University of New Mexico strives for and to reiterate that, as Lobos, we're in this together and here for each other, a consortium of leaders from across campus have come together to launch the Pack's Got Your Back initiative.

The idea came about after Dr. Sushilla Knottenbelt, interim associate dean for Student Success in the College of Arts and Sciences, hosted open forums for faculty and staff last month.

“During all three of our College of Arts and Sciences open forums in February, faculty and staff shared high levels of student stress and uncertainty,” Knottenbelt said. “We wondered what we could do to help our community, especially our students, know that we care about their well-being and are here for them when they need it.”

Knottenbelt brought the concerns to Dr. Eric Scott, vice president for Student Affairs, who had similar concerns about student belonging and well-being, and together they created a concept for outreach and affirmation across the UNM community.

[Read full story](#)

SNAP-A-PALOOZA

The social work interns from the UNM Dean of Students Office Well-being Team will be hosting a SNAP-A-PALOOZA event on March 12th from 12-2 PM outside of the SUB where students will be able to apply for SNAP, learn about other resources, and ask questions about eligibility. There will be free snacks and prizes for those that attend! For any additional questions, please email: socialwork@unm.edu



DSA Spring Branch Visits

The DSA Professional Development Committee is seeking DSA professional staff interested in participating in their spring Branch Campus visits:

- Taos Campus, Tuesday, March 25, leaving at 7:15 a.m., back no later than 5 p.m.
- Gallup Campus, Friday, April 4, leaving at 7:15 a.m. back no later than 5 p.m.

This professional development opportunity is available for all division staff, and requires supervisory approval at the time of sign-up via the interest form. The visits will be a chance for participants to network and learn about the unique communities each branch serves and better understand the needs of students interested in transferring to UNM-Main Campus. The trips will include tours of the campus, information sharing, structured collective brainstorming, and action-oriented planning for ongoing engagement.

The deadline to register is Friday, March 14 and supervisory approval is required.



Watch Lobo Basketball at the SUB



Student Affairs Accepting Applications for Career Services Director



The Division of Student Affairs is looking for its next director for Career Services. Career Services assists all students, faculty, staff, alumni and employers in the development of career education, identification, decision-making and the pursuit of employment opportunities.

The director is responsible for leading, guiding, and supporting the team, overseeing the department's budget, handling day-to-day administration of the office, planning, organizing, and implementing career programs and services, and cultivating strong partnerships at the campus, local, national, and global levels.

Minimum qualifications include a Master's degree in Counseling or an equivalent field; at least 5 years of experience directly related to the duties and responsibilities specified; and a completed degree(s) from an accredited institution that are above the minimum education requirement may be substituted for experience on a year for year basis.

Those interested can view the complete description and apply via the [UNM jobs posting req32728](#) with a best consideration date of Monday, March 31.