

Chancellor Weekly Brief | 8.24.2021

Dr. James Malm

FALL SEMESTER.

Greetings to you on this first week of the fall semester as we gather on campus for the first time in 17 months. It is so heartening to see all the activity in our parking lots, sidewalks, hallways, classrooms, and laboratories—as well as all the students with their books and class materials spread out on tables to study between classes. The energy and excitement around campus is truly a welcomed sight, and I am so grateful to welcome you and wish you a productive and joyful semester here at UNM-Gallup.

I'd like to give my congratulations to Antoinette Abeyta, Arunachalam Muthaiyan, and Kristian Simcox who were recently tenured and promoted to Associate Professor. And welcome to our new faculty members: Sharmyn Munoz, Halley Friedman, Charlene Mitchell, Elaine Villarta, Jordan Balaban, Lorenzo Nava, and Cortney Metzger.

We also have three new chairs—two of whom were formerly interim chairs—Ann Jarvis, Alok Dhital, and John Zimmerman, who will join Dr. Sabrina Ezzell to lead our divisions, which is no small task. I thank each of our chairs for their service to our campus and students.

Now, I know this gets repetitive, but our ability to enjoy being back on campus depends on our commitment to following COVID-safe protocols while indoors on campus. So, I must remind you to wear a face mask indoors, wash your hands, and please stay home if you're sick.

All UNM-Gallup faculty, staff, and students are required to be vaccinated and upload proof of their vaccination on or before September 30th. A request for accommodation for those with certain medical conditions or sincere religious beliefs that would prohibit them from getting a vaccine can be submitted prior to this deadline. You can find comprehensive COVID-19 vaccine information and guidelines at bringbackthepack.unm.edu.

As we work and study our way through this fall semester, let's maintain a spirit of collegiality, patience, and respect for one another. We have all been living through very strange and tough times, and some of us may have recently lost a loved one or were stricken with COVID-19. Each of us are here today because we are committed to persisting through these difficult times and succeeding with our professional and educational goals at UNM-Gallup. Let's be helpful to each other, be encouraging to our colleagues and classmates, and remain hopeful that we will see our way to a day in the near future where masks and mandates are no longer necessary.

Please stay safe and stay well.

Best Regards,





Office of the Chancellor

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