CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020.

My sincerest greetings to the UNM-Gallup Class of 2020 as I join with our entire campus community to deliver a virtual congratulations message to you all. Over the course of the past year, you so nobly finished your educational pursuit at our university in the midst of multiple national and global crises, and you are to be commended for the dedication and strength you exhibited throughout much struggle and strife to finish your degree or certificate.

As we live through these challenging times for our country together, I’m reminded of the words delivered by Admiral William McRaven—who served with distinction for 37 years in the United States Navy—during a commencement speech he gave a few years ago at the University of Texas. In that speech, Admiral McRaven suggested to graduates that “Without pushing your limits, without daring greatly, you will never know what is truly possible in your life.”

I echo those sentiments to you today and encourage you to dream big, dare greatly, and go into this world prepared to accomplish great things for yourself, for your family, and for our community. You are the leaders of tomorrow who will provide us with the ingenuity and know-how to solve our most pressing problems and ensure that we all have access to the quality of life so enjoyed by countless Americans who came before us. No matter what your career of choice will be, or your continued pursuit of education, you cannot underestimate the value you bring to our local community, state, and nation.

In the coming days and weeks, we will honor you and your classmates on our UNM-Gallup social media channels and Website beginning with my message of congratulations to you today. Also, we will continue to monitor public health orders and schedule a formal commencement ceremony when possible. With the promise of the COVID-19 vaccines, I am hopeful that an in-person ceremony to celebrate and honor your accomplishments at UNM-Gallup will be possible this year.

Always know that our Lobo community stands behind you, cheering you on as you embark on new endeavors in your life. We are counting on you to dream big and dare greatly—and we are excited to see what you will accomplish in the years ahead.

Best Regards,

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business