

Chancellor Weekly Brief | 1.29.2021

Dr. James Malm

MOMENTUM.

A wonderful scene unfolded at UNM-Gallup last Saturday as hundreds of our friends, families, and neighbors lined up to receive their COVID-19 vaccine from one of the many healthcare heroes who held a vaccine clinic in our gym. As a public university, we are always so honored to serve our community, but that honor is even more meaningful when we can help during an emergency.

For the first time in almost a year, we have signs pointing to an eventual return to normal. In our state of New Mexico, we are among the nation's leaders in vaccinations with over 216,000 vaccines administered so far and counting—according to the New Mexico Department of Health. Though McKinley County remains in the red, seven counties in our state have moved into yellow or green restriction levels, showing signs of improvement statewide in cases. And our state's higher education institutions are continuing to advance plans for a return to normal campus operations this year.

This is welcomed momentum. Our efforts are leading us in the right direction. I was so glad to see our latest registration numbers for this spring semester, showing our student headcount at 103 percent over the same time last year. While student credit hours remain somewhat lower at 84 percent, we are seeing students continue their education with us while pursuing their goals and aspirations for their future. These improved registration numbers are also a testament to our faculty who provide enhanced experiences in our hybrid courses after we pivoted to distance learning one year ago.

I don't think that I am being too hopeful or overly optimistic to say that we are all moving in the right direction and will see each other on campus once again this year. However, we will have to continue doing our part now to overcome this pandemic. Please remember that COVID-19 testing is available each Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Lions Hall parking lot. And, if you haven't done so already, pre-register for the vaccine at ccvaccinenmhealth.org.

The two snow days this week reminded us that before we can enjoy the spring, we must endure the storms that winter brings to our area. During this season when inclement weather is possible, I thank you for keeping abreast of our updates by checking your Lobo Mail and opting into the Lobo Alert system.

Together, we will stay safe and stay well.

Best Regards,



Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business