

Chancellor Weekly Brief | 11.19.2020

Dr. James Malm

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH.

For over five decades, UNM-Gallup has had the honor of providing higher education to the wonderful and diverse populations of students who study in our classrooms and laboratories and then go on to build productive careers here in the Gallup community and beyond. It is true that with our diverse students, faculty, and staff, we are all different together. And, it is our differences that make us stronger and allow for such dynamic collaborations across all of our academic disciplines.

As we treasure our diversity, we join with others throughout our campus community and the Navajo Nation in recognizing this Native American Heritage Month, which was officially designated in 1990 by Congress and President George H.W. Bush to recognize the many honored contributions Native Americans have made throughout our history. It should be noted that November was chosen for [this special celebration](#) as this month concludes the traditional harvest season and is generally a time of celebration for American Indians.

Indeed, the contributions of Native Americans to our society are endless. In an address to our nation in 1987, President Ronald Reagan celebrated the many contributions of Native Americans to our country by acknowledging that: “Many of the foods we eat and the medicines and remedies we use were introduced by Indians, and more than one highway follows an Indian trail. Indians make contributions in every area of endeavor and American life, and our literature and all our arts draw upon Indian themes and wisdom. Countless American Indians have served in our Armed Forces and have fought valiantly for our country. All Americans are grateful for these lasting contributions.”

I was personally touched this past Veterans Day as the National Native American Veterans Memorial was unveiled in Washington, D.C. This new memorial so rightly honors the service and sacrifice of Native veterans and their families. [As stated by the director of the National Museum of the American Indian](#), this memorial is a historic moment “for our country, for veterans, and for the Native American communities whose loyalty and passion have helped make America what it is today.”

On behalf of our entire UNM-Gallup family, thank you to all of our Native American students, faculty, and staff who contribute to our campus and truly make UNM-Gallup a special place to learn.

FALL ITINERARY

To align with new public health orders and guidelines, we will end in-person instruction tomorrow. Starting on Monday (11/23) through December 12, UNM-Gallup will be in an all-remote instruction and exam period. After Thanksgiving, most faculty, staff, and students will work remotely and offices and building on campus will—for the most part—be physically locked. Please continue to stay close to your UNM email as we will continue to provide updates throughout the remaining weeks of this semester—and as we approach the start of the spring semester in January.

WEEKLY BRIEF FORMAT CHANGE

Lastly, I'd like to mention that today's Chancellor's Open Office Hour on Zoom will be the last. Starting the week of November 30, we will begin distributing the Weekly Brief as a pre-recorded video message through campus e-mail and posting on our Website. On Friday, December 4, I will resume holding the weekly Chancellor's Open Office Hour at 9 a.m. via Zoom, where you can bring your ideas, suggestions, or questions to discuss openly in our shared governance forum.

We are truly living through unprecedented times together. These are very long days, weeks, and months. To all those within our community who have been impacted by the coronavirus, know that you and your family are in our prayers. Please keep up the good work. Continue working toward your educational goals. And, we will soon be on the other side of this pandemic.

Stay safe and stay well.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'J. Malm'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business