

## Chancellor Weekly Brief | 2.19.2021

Dr. James Malm

### INNOVATION.

Even though winter maintains its grip, there are improving signs that give us hope for more joyous seasons into this year. I am so pleased to see the rising numbers of New Mexicans who are able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. According to the [most recent dashboard](#) provided by the New Mexico Department of Health, there have been nearly 466,000 doses administered in our state, including over 129,000 vaccine doses received by the Veterans Administration and Indian Health Services. Please remember that you can register for the vaccine at [vaccinenm.org](https://vaccinenm.org).

We are also [seeing statewide progress](#) on the number of new COVID-19 cases, where there is a steady and continued downward trend in almost every area of the state. Our mitigation, testing, and vaccine efforts are having a positive impact on moving us out of this pandemic. This will mean a return to normal this year, if we keep up the good work.

#### JIMMY SANTIAGO BACA

More good news to share this week as we scheduled our first campus-wide event in some time. On Wednesday, March 24th, we will host critically acclaimed Mexican American poet, writer, and activist Jimmy Santiago Baca for a virtual presentation titled “Keeping Hope Alive.” This event will be held via Zoom and registration is free to all at [Gallup.UNM.edu](https://Gallup.UNM.edu). Our thanks to Dr. Tracy Lassiter for organizing this presentation. Events are truly important to our campus life, and it will be a real joy to host this event in March. I encourage you to register and attend.

#### ACADEMIC INNOVATION & STUDENT SUCCESS

As I have previously noted, we are assembling an Ad Hoc Academic Program Innovation Committee championed by Dr. Dan Primozic, dean of instruction. The purpose of this committee is to recommend, review, and discuss new programs for our students drawn from a close study of ideas and data available from our Office of Institutional Research and other sources of what programs might best serve our students and their educational plans.

This committee is a natural outgrowth of our work completed by the Ad Hoc Program Review Committee where we removed six programs from our college catalogue of offerings. This is exciting and critical work for our institution, our students, faculty, staff, and administration—and we look forward to their good work. In the near future, Dr. Dan will also assemble another Ad Hoc Committee on Innovative Organizational Structuring for Academic Affairs. But, for now we will drive our energies toward new program innovations.

Please stay the course. Work together with a spirit of collegiality and patience. And remain focused on serving our students so that they succeed in their professional and educational goals at UNM-Gallup. Thank you, as always, for all that you do.



Office of the Chancellor

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'J. Malm'.

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor  
Professor of Business