

## Chancellor Weekly Brief | 4.2.2021

### Dr. James Malm

## GOOD FRIDAY.

I'd like to extend my Easter greetings on this Good Friday to all of our faculty, staff, and students who are observing this wonderful holiday today and into this weekend. We also conclude another productive week at UNM-Gallup as many of our working committees and the staff council planning group move forward with their good work. Even as we continue with our cautious limited campus operations, we are fulfilling the mission of our university.

### PROCESS TECHNOLOGY

Our congratulations and appreciation go out to Jon Saatvedt who provided a stellar presentation on our new Process Technology program to the UNM Board of Regents Student Success, Teaching, and Research ([SSTAR](#)) Committee yesterday. This is the final stage of an approval process that has spanned the past couple of years, and we are so grateful to Jon for moving this new program even closer to the finish line. With anticipated finalization in the coming weeks, UNM-Gallup will likely offer this new certificate in the fall. Once in place, Process Technology will provide students with an immersive 30-credit program and a two-year pathway into much-needed careers locally and regionally with high earning potential.

### GRADUATION

I'd like to also provide a brief update on our spring 2021 graduation plans. While McKinley County fortunately is in the turquoise category within the state's "Red to Green" framework, we are still faced with the reality that COVID-19 remains a threat and continues to impact the health and well-being of our campus and community. Also, even within the turquoise category, mass gatherings are limited to no more than 150 individuals, which greatly limits who would be able to attend an in-person ceremony. Simply stated, we cannot move into a post-pandemic mindset just yet.

Graduation plans remain in flux, and we should have a final determination on our plans in the next few weeks. However, I can announce today that UNM-Gallup will not hold a full-on, in-person graduation this spring. I know this is disappointing to our 170-plus graduates for spring 2021—and our 368 graduates in 2020—but we will continue to monitor the pandemic and have hope for an in-person ceremony to celebrate our graduates this year.

We are so close to many achievements. We can see the light at the end of this pandemic tunnel. And our students are close to finishing out this hybrid spring semester strong. Our cautious approach and focus on staying safe today will mean a return to normal in the coming months, with in-person activities and learning finally once again occurring on our campus.

Please stay safe and stay well.

Best Regards,

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

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor  
Professor of Business