

## Chancellor Weekly Brief | 4.23.2021

Dr. James Malm

### **GRADUATION.**

There is no doubt that among the many hardships and disappointments caused by this persistent and ongoing pandemic is the cancellation of in-person events since March of last year. For the hundreds of graduates in the UNM-Gallup Class of 2020, this meant that we had to forego our formal ceremonies and acknowledge the culmination of your efforts at our university with less-than-ideal virtual celebrations.

We know that the pursuit of your educational goals means great sacrifice for you and your families. Pursuing your degree or certificate requires dedication to your studies while often pulling you away from other work and family obligations; all in the hope that your efforts will provide you with more career opportunities and a prosperous future. When you achieve your goals, there is an expectation that you'll be able to celebrate among your family, friends, and classmates—while being recognized for your effort and sacrifice.

We have come to the decision to take advantage of the good work our community has accomplished in mitigating COVID-19 locally and hold an in-person ceremony for our spring, summer, and fall 2020 and spring 2021 graduates on Saturday, May 14th, at the Gallup Public School stadium.

It's important to note that we are only able to hold this in-person ceremony for our graduates under strict guidelines and public health orders. There will be no guests permitted at the ceremony, but we will live-stream the commencement on Facebook so that your well-earned walk across the stage can be celebrated in real-time by your family and friends. And, of course, we will follow other safety protocols such as requiring a face mask and social distancing throughout the ceremony to protect your well-being. Even with these restrictions, we are committed to making this a wonderful celebration for you, our graduates.

We have created a graduation webpage where you can read through event details and register for this commencement ceremony as a class of 2020 or 2021 graduate. Our wonderful student affairs team will also hold graduation information sessions via Zoom on April 27th and May 4th. You can find all graduation details at [gallup.unm.edu/students/graduation](https://gallup.unm.edu/students/graduation).

I should mention that our in-person graduation relies on our continued progress with this pandemic, and we must keep in mind the possibility that public health orders can change between now and May 14th that would require us to postpone the ceremony once again. I am going to stay hopeful, though, and I would encourage our graduates to register and plan to attend.

To all of our faculty, staff, and students: Please keep up the great effort as we study and work hard during these last few weeks of the spring semester.

Please stay safe and stay well.

Best Regards,

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



Office of the Chancellor

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor  
Professor of Business