



Office of the Chancellor

Chancellor Weekly Brief – 4/24/2020

Dr. James Malm

Roadmap to Reopening.

We are now seeing data that our efforts to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus are working; though McKinley County and the Navajo Nation are still realizing infection rates that far outpace the rest of New Mexico and even many parts of the country. We need to remain vigilant and adhere to guidelines just a while longer, but we are increasingly hopeful that a return to our wonderful new normal will be here soon. To paraphrase the words of our governor provided in a [recent interview](#), we are not ready to ease up, but we are certainly preparing for a “gradual and safe reopening” before stay-at-home orders end.

As the largest branch campus within the UNM system, we have been called upon to serve as a resource and voice among many in our state government’s recent formation of a roadmap to reopening— and contribute to the safe return to campus for all students enrolled in New Mexico higher education.

The incredible institutional know-how UNM-Gallup brought to the monumental task of bringing all of our courses to remote learning platforms will now be focused on mid-term and long-term planning for this higher education roadmap that successfully brings us to a phased reopening in the near future. We are so grateful to be asked by the governor to contribute to this blueprint on how higher education plans to resume operations when the time is right—and to collectively identify the issues, difficulties to overcome, and resources needed to safely reopen higher education institutions within the state of New Mexico.

We all are experiencing anxiety and uncertainty during this pandemic. We are now approaching two months of being apart and functioning within a very unnatural environment for all of us. Gatherings and face-to-face interactions are at the core of the human experience, and it’s so difficult to feel normal and together during these uncertain times. Some of us have also been directly impacted by the virus, which makes this pandemic even more difficult when you or a family member have tested positive for this disease.

This roadmap to reopening is a good thing for us all. Hope and encouragement are not easy feelings to convey through Zoom, email, or a letter such as this one to our community. But, I offer you this: We will finish this semester, and we will soon return to campus. Even with difficult and challenging weeks still to come, we will be OK. And, no matter what we may face, I pledge to be transparent and collaborative for our campus community.

In that same spirit of transparency, I invite you to join me at the end of each weekday at 4 p.m. on Zoom for the Chancellor’s Open Office Hour. It’s an opportunity for us to share questions, concerns, and resources—as well as check in with each other during this period of separation. The Zoom Meeting Link is:

<https://unm.zoom.us/j/209786397>.

I am so grateful for your hard work and dedication. And, I so admire our students for staying the course during this pandemic and finishing this semester strong.

Please be well and have a wonderful weekend.

Best Regards,



Dr. James R. Malm
Professor of Business
Chancellor

Helpful UNM-Gallup Links:

[UNM-Gallup Coronavirus Updates](#)

[UNM Main Campus Coronavirus Updates](#)

[Adobe License for Faculty & Students](#)

[Faculty Resources](#)

[Student Resources](#) | [Advising](#)

[Student Survey](#)

[Community Resources](#)