

Chancellor Weekly Brief – 5/1/2020

Dr. James Malm

STAY THE COURSE.

As a university operating in the midst of a public health crisis, we are staying the course with our spring semester finish line just two weeks away. There have been countless feats of resiliency, courage, and dedication from our faculty, students, and staff since this crisis emerged in March, and I continue to celebrate each of you and encourage you to remain focused on your health, well-being, and commitment to education.

Even as good news begins to emerge in our state—with some phased reopening occurring—northwest New Mexico and the Navajo Nation continue to see increasing COVID-19 cases. Just today, our governor accepted the Gallup mayor's request to enact an emergency order and essentially close the city of Gallup to nonresidents. [In her executive order](#), the governor states that “all roadways providing access to the city of Gallup shall be closed and only Gallup residents, those who work in Gallup, and members of the media shall be permitted entry into the municipality.” The order—which began today at noon and goes to noon on Monday, May 4—also requires that all businesses and nonprofits within the city to close from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Though the order runs through Monday, we should prepare for the possibility that the governor may continue the order beyond that date.

While this news is hard to take, the UNM-Gallup community remains steadfast in our mission. To borrow some sentiments from Winston Churchill, it is the courage to continue that counts for us. We must remain together and support one another during this time of enormous uncertainty. We must be courageous and resolute in continuing to overcome this period of unrest, knowing that our pursuit of higher education will always better the lives of our students, our communities, and our world. After this pandemic passes, the course that we are on will remain the right one for continued good health and prosperity. There is good news in that.

We also have good news in our class of 2020. In just a couple of weeks, this class will achieve an enormous milestone in their lives when all of their dedication and hard work will result in their degree completion.

There will be a day in the near future when we can hold gatherings and celebrations. We have decided that it's better to hold on to the possibility of offering our spring graduates a ceremony later this year than to hold one virtually or online in May. In the next week, we will correspond with our community and graduates to provide other ways that will honor and celebrate their stories, photos and videos, and incredible achievements this month and beyond. More to come soon as we prepare these new ways to celebrate our graduates, so please stay tuned.

Be well and have a wonderful weekend.

Best Regards,

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

Dr. James R. Malm
Professor of Business
Chancellor