

Chancellor Weekly Brief – 5.15.2020

Dr. James Malm

The Class of 2020.

Every so often in the course of our nation's history, we experience a tragic incident or national emergency that disrupts our daily lives and requires so much perseverance and will from every American. At the turn of this promising 21st century, we experienced the devastating attacks on our homeland on September 11, 2001—a direct attack unlike any other we have witnessed since Pearl Harbor. That year—and as a result of that tragic attack on our country—every student pursuing their educational dreams had to persevere through the uncertainty, collective shock, and turmoil that gripped this nation for years to come.

While the enemy we fight today is a virus—and not terrorists—it has cast a similar dark shadow over the lives of our students who have worked so diligently to achieve their dreams and prepare themselves for careers in our global workforce. And—much like the days after 9/11—this pandemic will continue to cause us much distress and uncertainty that we will have to collectively overcome.

We will persevere. We will beat this virus. And, we will not let this national crisis dampen our spirits as we celebrate the awesome achievements of our UNM-Gallup Class of 2020—193 great minds who have worked so incredibly hard through their studies and will achieve a certificate or degree in fields that are critical to the prosperity of our local community, state, and nation.

We have great hope in this Class of 2020, and there will be a time in the near future that we will be able to celebrate their achievements in person with our friends and families. A national health emergency today will not lessen the incredible and positive impact this class will make tomorrow and throughout their careers. They will each accomplish great things in their own way, and we look forward to witnessing their greatness.

As the UNM-Gallup community sends off our graduates, we continue to invite new and continuing students to pursue their education here. We are seeing an increasing number of students registering for the upcoming summer and fall semesters—and we are encouraging those who would like to join us at UNM-Gallup to register at their earliest convenience. For now, we know that all summer courses will be held via remote instruction. And, we are working through the summer to form plans for a possible safe and healthy return to campus in the fall. We will continue to follow state and national public health guidelines, available data, and all directives in our decision-making process—and will communicate our plans in a timely and transparent manner as they progress in the coming weeks and months.

My wholehearted congratulations to the Class of 2020! I so admire each of you for your accomplishments and wish you all the best. Stay well. Stay Safe.

Best Regards,

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

Dr. James R. Malm
Professor of Business
Chancellor