



Office of the Chancellor

Weekly Brief – 6.5.2020

Dr. Dan Primožic

WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT TOGETHER.

As we begin our summer semester, it's against the backdrop of enormous social unrest and a pandemic that continues to unsettle our lives. These are truly unprecedented times that are increasingly challenged by the fact that we are apart and unable to gather as a community to support one another on campus as we witness these emerging crises impacting our local and national communities.

UNM-Gallup is a campus where 94 percent of our students identify as multiethnic or a racial minority. And, we have members of our campus community who've experienced some form of prejudice or racial violence in their lives. When we see the video of George Floyd's murder, it hits us hard as a minority-majority university. We can feel the racial prejudice and violence through that video, and we have a sense of the pain left behind in each of his family members' hearts. We join with our local community, nation, and world as we all reel from the shock that people of color are still not safe from the ugliness of racism.

A few days ago, UNM President Garnett Stokes released a statement on behalf of all of us within the Lobo community where she expressed her commitment to keeping our community safe and free from racism and violence, and we share that commitment at UNM-Gallup. We are also deeply committed to equal opportunity for all persons—and it is our mission to ensure that each member within our community enjoys the rightful pursuit of their higher education free from discrimination, prejudice, or racism.

We operate as an institution where we are all different together, and we believe that it is our differences that make us stronger and allow for strong collaborations across all academic disciplines. As we continue to mourn the death of George Floyd—and all victims of racial violence—we also remain steadfast in our commitment to provide an academic environment for the students entrusted in our care where they can learn and flourish within a campus that is safe, respectful, and celebrates the diversity that truly makes us UNM-Gallup.

Stay the course. This year has been challenging, but we are here for each other—and we will continue our mission even in the midst of the uncertainty surrounding us. We are fortunate to have each of you as members of our UNM-Gallup campus community, and I truly celebrate each of you.

Best Regards,

Dr. Dan Primožic
Chief Academic Officer &
Dean of Instruction