

Chancellor Weekly Brief – 7.9.2020

Dr. James Malm

UPDATE NUMBER 60.

Over 118 days ago, the COVID-19 pandemic forced all of us to abruptly adjust our personal and professional lives to meet the needs of the moment; to do everything we can to protect the health and well-being of our students, personnel, family members, and community; and to find a way to live with a crisis that is today absolutely raging throughout our state and nation. Sixty of our campus COVID-19 updates ago, the United States had just under 10,000 confirmed Coronavirus cases. Today, we're at 3.17 million.

If this were a war in the traditional sense within our homeland borders, we would be stunned at the daily casualty and death toll numbers. We would be truly paralyzed by the fear of going outdoors, being in public, and living our wonderful free American lives. The enemy we face today is not an enemy bomb but is a virus that leaves its survivors with often difficult symptoms for weeks and months.

This crisis is real. This virus is dangerous. And, it persists.

UNM-Gallup must be a leader in this time for our community. Our family members, neighbors, elders, and students are looking to us for guidance on how to persist and eventually come out on the other side of these unprecedented times. We must remain as partners in crisis in order to utilize our collective know-how and grit as a higher education institution that can guide our people into the coming months—with a sense of safety and responsibility—to overcome this invisible enemy and reopen at a pace that mitigates risk and protects the health of those we serve.

We have our work cut out for us to solve multiple emergencies. In the next month, we need to complete a thoughtful, strategic, and meaningful shared-governance process to publicly and carefully line-item the unfunded expenses we will avoid to meet our state budget sanding requirements. And, now that our phased reopening plan is published, we must continue preparation efforts to meet the needs of our students and ensure the delivery of a high-quality educational experience in the safest environment possible.

This is work we must do collaboratively as partners. I strongly believe that our success is as one community working toward a shared mission. We cannot be overwhelmed or tired. We cannot complain and not offer solutions. And, we must each stay informed in this time of constantly evolving issues in the multiple arenas of health, safety, operations, budget, teaching, and learning.

Our battles surround us. Do not sit on the sidelines, though. Share your ideas and concerns during the weekday Open Office Hour at 4 p.m. Be sure to read the many available updates distributed via email from the main campus and our own. And, take the time to digest the daily COVID-19 updates we post online along with our campus reopening plan published this past week. It is your responsibility to remain informed, but to also share in the conversation and be an active participant in helping to solve the issues we face.

I truly believe that our good citizenship on campus and within our community will help to defeat this virus. On the other side, we will be different people working in a different institution. But we will be strong and work together as we have done so admirably thus far.



Office of the Chancellor

Our opportunities are as big as our challenges. I invite you to be a part of the work that ensures our future and come to each workday with your willingness to be a partner that helps us solve the crises we face. We will persevere and be good stewards of UNM-Gallup for generations of students to come.

Please stay safe and be well!

Best Regards,

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

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business