



Office of the Chancellor

Chancellor Weekly Brief – 7.24.2020

Dr. James Malm

AUGUST.

These past few days with seasonal monsoon rains and Opening Day for Major League Baseball have provided some welcomed signs of normalcy during these strange and unprecedented times that we're living through. As we heard in the governor's COVID-19 update yesterday, the virus continues to greatly impact our daily lives. Though, the data presented did show that our state is faring better than our neighbors in Arizona and Texas—and many other states nationwide. Our efforts to wash our hands, social distance, and wear a face mask or covering in public are working to slow the spread of this virus.

We are truly anticipating the return of our students and faculty in just three short weeks when we will begin our hybrid fall semester on August 17. While August and much of the fall will be far from normal, we will return in our planned hybrid environment as a united UNM-Gallup community that will persevere through this pandemic. Even with the enormous work ahead of us, we will continue our mission to prepare students for their educational and professional goals.

I've outlined several projects below that will continue throughout the next month—and will be important to our continued stewardship of our UNM-Gallup campus. The ongoing campus preparations, meetings, and projects we are all engaged in are for the good of our campus and students. Before addressing these items, I'd like to thank you for your continued dedication and thoughtful input that has surely helped us approach our mission and response to this pandemic in a prudent and effective way.

HED GRADES REOPENING PLANS

The reopening plans developed and published by our state's higher education institutions are critical to the health and safety of all students attending a college, university, or specialty school in New Mexico. Now that many of these plans are being implemented, the New Mexico Higher Education Department will soon grade our plans to aid and assist us in keeping all of our students and personnel safe. While the HED has yet to publish a grading scale or criteria in this constantly changing public health emergency environment, UNM-Gallup is confident that our plan and implementation efforts are solid.

I'd like to encourage you to review our phased reopening plan on our Website at [Gallup.UNM.edu/safe-return](https://gallup.unm.edu/safe-return). A reminder to you that this is a living document that will be updated with new information, document links, and additional protocols added as needed. Please check the plan often and bring your questions or suggestions to our daily open office hour at 4 p.m. held via Zoom.

CAPITAL OUTLAY PRESENTATION

Yesterday, I partnered with Robert Griego—our director of business operations—to hold a dry-run of our capital outlay presentation with 35 of our UNM colleagues, including those from the four branch campuses. All of New Mexico Higher Education will present their capital projects to HED by region at the annual summer hearing that runs from August 4 to August 12. Robert and I will present on behalf of UNM-Gallup.

I invite you to read through the information that we will present in order to hopefully secure approval of important capital projects that will benefit our campus, including the refurbishing of existing facilities and necessary upgrades to maintain campus safety, educational excellence, and achieve energy efficiency. These projects also include important repairs to comply with ADA and other safety codes.

[UNM-Gallup Facility Repair & Renewal](#)

[HED Capital Outlay Funding Evaluation Form](#)

[Five-Year Capital Project Funding Plan](#)

GO-BOND C CAMPAIGN

In this coming General Election, we will have the opportunity to 'Vote Yes' on GO-Bond C, which will provide funds to UNM-Gallup and our other 33 public institutions to ensure that our facilities are second to none. If approved in November, this \$156 million bond will certainly go a long way to support renovations and other important projects for higher education in our state.

It's also estimated that the passage of GO-Bond C would bring about 44 additional jobs to McKinley County as well; which is especially important during this difficult economy. At UNM-Gallup, we are hoping to receive around \$3 million for the renovation of our Center for Career Technology, Education, and Innovation (CCTEI) and other spaces throughout campus to support programs that are essential to our students and community.

Leading up to Election Day on November 3, we will share in planned statewide public relations efforts to encourage voters to pass this important public bond for higher education.

These will all be potentially good developments for UNM-Gallup. I so appreciate your continued work and dedication to our students as we approach the start of the fall semester and deliver a high-quality educational experience during what will be challenging times ahead.

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