

Chancellor Weekly Brief – 8.20.2020

Dr. James Malm

FALL START.

This week, our students returned to us in a fall semester that is unlike any other in our history. College campuses throughout our country are continuing to balance student experiences and learning excellence with COVID-19 safety and mitigation efforts. With most UNM-Gallup courses being held remotely—and a select few courses scheduled for face-to-face instruction on campus—we are confident that our [phased approach to reopening](#) provides the appropriate balance and safety protocols for our faculty, personnel, and students. While this semester will be different, our efforts and sacrifices will lead to an eventual return to regular campus operations in the near future. I ask that all of us stay close to our email, continue to read the daily COVID updates and these weekly briefs, and engage in dialogue to remain successful in our work.

I am pleased to report that we have successfully connected all of our excellent faculty and motivated students in our 455 remote arranged, remote scheduled, and face-to-face-plus course sections that started this week—with a second wave of 24 additional sections starting in our second 8-week term this October. [As this week's dashboard shows](#), we have registered 6,145 enrollments as of August 19. Even in the midst of this pandemic, these improving numbers demonstrate the persistence of our students in the local community who value an education at UNM-Gallup that will prepare them for their careers and future educational opportunities.

If you visit our [UNM-Gallup newsroom](#), you can read the story of Allison Begay that truly exhibits the persistence of our student body. This past summer, Allison was a member of the first cohort of BSN graduates at UNM-Gallup. Her story not only illustrates the many barriers our students overcome to finish their degrees, but also the quality and support they find among the faculty, personnel, and other students at UNM-Gallup. While this pandemic has greatly impacted the volume and difficulty of our work, we are reminded through each of our students that it is worthwhile. Our mission to prepare people to achieve their educational and professional goals is so important to their productive lives in our community.

Our efforts to ensure the delivery of a high-quality educational experience for our students continue as well. Dr. Dan Primozić and our academic affairs team support faculty through the many changes this pandemic has brought to our instructional delivery. Jayme McMahon and our student success team support students with the best recruitment, admissions, financial aid, holistic advising, and class-placement processes. And, Robert Griego and the business operations team maintain a safe and [healthy facilities environment](#) on campus for all. We are collaborative, and we are working to maintain quality.

I am so grateful for a successful semester start together—and humbled to be among so many talented and dedicated people at UNM-Gallup. I am thankful to be fully engaged with each of you as we fulfill our collective mission and shared vision of 'Excellence, Integrity, Diversity, Freedom, Sustainability, Access and Support to Succeed, and Respectful Relationships.'

Thank you for all that you accomplish each day for our students, our campus, and our Gallup community.



Office of the Chancellor

Please stay safe and be well!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'J. Malm'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business