

Chancellor Weekly Brief – 8.7.2020

Dr. James Malm

111TH WEEKLY BRIEF.

My admiration and gratitude to all of you continues as we prepare for the start of our fall semester on August 17—just 10 short days from today. As we’ve communicated in our daily brief throughout this pandemic, our focus remains on our core mission to prepare people for their educational and professional goals. We have collectively maintained a safe and secure campus along with the educational quality our students expect. These are unprecedented times, and you have all responded within this crisis heroically to ensure our continued success.

Since November 20, 2017, we have published 110 of these weekly briefs every Friday. And, we’ve communicated daily with each of you throughout this pandemic during our Chancellor’s Open Office Hour at 4 p.m. via Zoom. As we know that our campus community will be busy with instruction and learning in a hybrid environment this fall, we are slightly revising that schedule. Starting on Monday, our daily COVID-19 updates will be emailed to our campus community—and we will hold one Chancellor’s Open Office Hour and Weekly Brief at 4 p.m. on Thursdays via Zoom. I encourage you to attend this weekly opportunity to come together virtually and discuss the latest news and updates impacting our campus.

We have some great news and collective successes to share this week:

Our [campus reopening plan](#) has passed the New Mexico Higher Education Department’s (NMHED) grading, which helps bring some certainty to us during this dangerous COVID-19 pandemic environment. The UNM-Gallup reopening plan is a living document housed on our Website for your review and implementation. It contains many important safety protocols and procedures that we must adhere to—and we will routinely update our plan as new information, guidelines, and data are provided to us by our main campus and state officials.

Yesterday, we received [Congressional notification](#) that our TRIO/SSS program has been selected to receive funding to “provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education,” as stated in the award letter. Congratulations to Kimimila Simms, Jayme McMahon, and the TRIO/SSS team for securing this important funding and continuing their service to our students.

[Congratulations are in order](#) as well for Cyndi Jarvison—our Small Business Development Center director—who was recently selected as the 2020 New Mexico SBA Minority Small Business Champion of the Year *and* received the 2020 Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Award. The important work our SBDC does for our local businesses cannot be understated, and these awards are truly a testament to the good work Cyndi and her team does each day on behalf of UNM-Gallup.

Yesterday, I joined with Robert Griego to provide our testimony at the [NMHED hearing](#) on capital projects. We presented our [\\$1.5 million severance tax bond appropriation request for facility repair and renewal needs](#) that include replacing the elevator in Calvin Hall, fire safety renewal in the Health Careers and Construction Technology buildings, renewal of LED lighting in classrooms and the gymnasium, and asphalt pavement and



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repairs in 12 parking lot locations. We expressed in our testimony that we are committed to the ongoing stewardship of our campus and the protection and success of our students.

As exhibited in our [Fall 2020 schedule of classes](#), we are on track with 495 active course sections currently with 5,121 enrollments (as of August 6)—including [84% Remote Arranged/Scheduled modalities](#). An enormous amount of work has gone into planning and scheduling classes for our fall semester, and I am so grateful for all the work that our personnel and faculty completed to safely and effectively instruct our students in a high-quality hybrid environment this fall.

We welcome back our faculty next [Monday, August 10](#), and our students on Monday, August 17—all at a distance and remotely for now. UNM-Gallup will continue to operate under limited operations until further notice with most facilities remaining locked. If a trip to campus is necessary, please arrange an appointment with your supervisor. The [library](#) and [bookstore](#) are providing curbside services.

Our shared successes remind us that we are open, we are functioning, and we will persevere through these strange and difficult times together. Thank you for all that you accomplish each day for our students, our campus, and our Gallup community.

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