

**Chancellor Weekly Brief | 12.18.2020**  
**Dr. James Malm**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS.**

Over the course of this past year, we have experienced almost shocking new realities in our lives as we combatted this pandemic together as a local community, state, and nation. We have been in our socially distanced, virtual reality as a campus since March with our students and faculty teaching and learning remotely—and our personnel delivering essential services from mostly off-campus as well. The many adjustments we have all had to make over the past year to succeed in our mission are nothing short of heroic.

We have hope now, though, in the vaccines that are coming to our hospitals and healthcare facilities and will soon be available to us all. With each vaccine delivered, there is emerging hope that we will slowly but surely return to normal in the New Year. As we emerge from this crisis in the coming months, we should remember those whose lives were impacted or cut short by this deadly virus. Our hearts truly go out to all of our fellow Lobos who have struggled or experienced loss this past year.

All of us within the UNM-Gallup community will enter the spring semester and 2021 after our holiday break full of optimism, dedication to our work and studies, and with a sense of excitement that this next year will truly be better than the last. Our thanks go out to the first responders, healthcare heroes and scientists, and the frontline essential workers who have helped us get through this pandemic and made it possible to truly have hope for better days ahead.

While our campus will be closed from December 23rd to January 4th, please spend this time resting up, enjoying time with your family, and soaking up all the wonderful holiday cheer that this season brings. Whether you are celebrating this season of Advent and Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, I wish you the warmest and happiest holidays. And I will be thinking of each of you as we ring in the New Year, wishing you all the success, good health, and prosperity in 2021.

Stay safe and stay well.

Best Regards,

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

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor  
Professor of Business