

Chancellor Weekly Brief | 5.24.2021

Dr. James Malm

A NEW PACE.

Greetings to you at the beginning of this last week of May, which has been an eventful and joyful month as we wrapped up the spring semester and continued our tremendous work to emerge out of this COVID-19 pandemic. Today's weekly brief is a special edition as the past two Fridays have been busy for our campus. On Friday, May 14th, we held an amazing and well-deserved commencement ceremony to send off our Class of 2020 and 2021 graduates. And this past Friday, I had the pleasure of being in Taos as I led efforts to finalize a national search for a new UNM-Taos chancellor.

This is truly an exciting time for all of us, and we are experiencing a new pace with quickly changing public health guidelines and positive news that the tide may finally be shifting in our favor. Today, I am coming to you from my office on campus for the first time in nearly 440 days due to our remote operations. Each department on campus is working with main campus officials and UNM-Gallup administration and other personnel to finalize their own safe return plans. Further details will be announced as those plans are approved and implemented. I should emphasize that our planning will continue to be driven by data, public health guidelines, and with the safety of our faculty, staff, and students as our priority.

In some other rather big news, revised CDC guidelines and public health orders in New Mexico no longer require masks on our campus, in our buildings, or on the fitness trail for those who have been fully vaccinated. If you have not received a COVID-19 vaccine, you are still required to wear a face mask in public and on campus. If you are vaccinated but feel more comfortable wearing your mask, that preference will be honored on our campus.

Our progress as a community, state, and nation would not be possible without the dedication and sacrifice made by our frontline healthcare workers. I want to acknowledge and recognize our nurses and EMS professionals who we celebrate throughout the month of May. We are beyond grateful for your service and appreciate all that you've done for our friends, neighbors, and family members who've needed your care during this pandemic. I'd also like to thank the healthcare professionals at IHS who provide vaccines to our community through events here at UNM-Gallup.

Continued progress is possible with all of us working together, and I appreciate all of the good work each of you do every day on behalf of our students. I am so thankful to be back on campus and look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks or months as we work toward a safe return to campus.

Please have an enjoyable Memorial Day Weekend coming up—and 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