

Chancellor Weekly Brief – 9.17.2020

Dr. James Malm

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH.

This week begins the month-long celebration of Hispanic heritage in our state and nation to honor the many wonderful contributions all Hispanic Americans make here in the Gallup community and beyond. As a minority-majority university, UNM-Gallup especially welcomes and celebrates our faculty, students, and personnel who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America and the Spanish-speaking nations of the Caribbean.

The UNM newsroom has a [wonderful article](#) recently posted that details the history of this special month—including an overview and history of Hispanic heritage in the state of New Mexico. As provided in this article that I encourage you to read:

“The month, which always begins on Sept. 15, marks the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Two other countries, Mexico and Chile, celebrate their independence on Sept. 16 and 18, respectively. The observance was born in 1968 when Congress authorized the president to issue an annual proclamation designating National Hispanic Heritage Week. Just two decades later, lawmakers amended the law and expanded it to a month-long celebration, stretching from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.”

New Mexico historian Rob Martinez further explains in the article that while Hispanics make up 18.5 percent—or 60 million people—of the U.S. population, they comprise nearly 47 percent of the population in our state. Throughout this month, we join with all Lobos throughout the country in celebrating the heritage, history, and ongoing contributions Hispanic Americans continue to make to our local community, state, and nation. While this year’s celebrations through the sharing of food, art, and fiestas will be much different due to the pandemic, I invite you to honor Hispanic heritage and traditions with family and friends in a variety of COVID-safe ways throughout this special month.

As we approach the last weekend of the summer season, I want to express my gratitude to each of you for your continued perseverance and hard work during this pandemic. Please take some time for rest and recreation this weekend—and we will welcome the arrival of fall next week as we continue to deliver on our mission.

Please stay safe and be well.

Best Regards,

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



Office of the Chancellor

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business