



CEO Weekly Brief – 12/8/2017

Dr. James Malm

As we wind down the last instructional week of the semester, I want to wish everyone a productive and successful finals week. Good luck to all students with final exams and projects and thank you to the faculty and staff who have guided out students throughout the semester. Students, I hope you always believe in the person you want to become and know what a great investment your education is in your future.

Staff

Welcome to Brittany Babycos who is our new Senior Institutional Researcher. Brittany started her position this past Monday and her office is located in Gurley Hall 1220B. After graduating from Gallup Catholic High School in 2008, Brittany studied at Loyola University of New Orleans where she received Bachelor of Science degrees in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She then attended Southeastern Louisiana University and received a Master of Science degree in Psychology.



Brittany Babacos, Senior Institutional Researcher

The search for the Director of Business Operations is underway and committee members were given their official charge this week. The position has been posted in several local, regional and national records so we look forward to a successful process.

Faculty

The Dean of Instruction search is progressing as scheduled. The search committee has identified a short list of semifinalists who are going through Skype interviews this week. The committee hopes to have a list of finalists identified before the winter break and conduct on-campus interviews in January.

Student Success

Graduation ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, December 16 at 10:00 a.m. at Hiroshi Miyamura High School. I hope everyone can attend and help celebrate this milestone life achievement for our students. Indeed, many our students turn “can’ts into cans, and dreams into plans!”



The TRIO graduation ceremony was held this afternoon and it was such an honor for me to meet the students and see them receive their TRIO stoles. Each of our students has a story of success to tell and watching these students and their families celebrate their graduation was a reminder of the power of education in changing lives.



TRIO Fall 2017 Graduation Celebration

Campus

Thank you to the entire campus for such a beautiful Holiday in New Mexico event last night. I felt so embraced by everyone in attendance and was awed by the warmth and beauty brought to the celebration. I appreciate the efforts of the many departments and student groups who set out luminarias, set up and worked booths and activities and acted as ambassadors to welcome guests and promote the campus.



Community

The beginning of this past week was spent in Santa Fe attending a series of meetings and hearings addressing the status and needs of higher education in New Mexico. The first meeting was with the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges of which UNM-Gallup is a member. This group represents branch campuses from the University of New Mexico, Eastern New Mexico University, and New Mexico State University. As a group, we voted on our legislative priorities which include:

- 1) Higher Education Funding Formula
- 2) Compensation
- 3) Dual Credit Funding
- 4) Non-credit Workforce Training Fund.

I also was able to attend the Higher Education Institutions session of the Legislative Finance Committee at the New Mexico capitol building. As an association, our four priorities were presented to members of the LFC. I am glad I was able to have a seat at that table to advocate for funding issues that directly affect UNM-Gallup. I will continue to share information as difficult discussions and decisions continue.



New Mexico State Capitol Building

I would like to thank our Veterans Association Representative Nick Brokeshoulder for the invitation to attend this year's Shalako ceremony at the Zuni Pueblo. Nick and his family welcomed me to join them for this most sacred of occasions. I was honored at having the privilege to witness the ceremonies, dances and celebrations. The sanctity of ceremonies such as Shalako clearly represent the beauty of the many cultures we serve at UNM-Gallup.

