

CEO Weekly Brief - 5/29/2018

Dr. James Malm

Happy summer, everyone! The intercession always provides a chance to catch our breath and take a look at what has gone well the past semester. I can't think of a better start to the summer than to share some good news regarding enrollment numbers. Although these are unofficial and running numbers, I am happy to report that as of today, summer headcount is up 10% and student credit hours are up 21% from this same day last year. Fall headcount is up 11% and student credit hours are up 10% from this same time last year. Given that these numbers can jump multiple percentage points in any direction daily, it is too early to make any solid predictions but I am hopeful and deeply appreciative of the campus-wide efforts undertaken to support growth, including reworking of course scheduling. Things are looking good and we hope the trends will hold.

GGEDC ANNUAL LUNCHEON

On Monday May 7th I attended the 4th Annual Business, Retention and Expansion Luncheon of the Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation. The luncheon recognized and honored Daniel Statile, Vice President-Refinery Manager of Andeavor Gallup Refinery Team. Lieutenant Governor John Sanchez was the guest speaker. It was impressive to hear him talk about his 8 years in office and the 1 million miles he has logged to visit every part of the state.



CAMPUS TOUR FOR LFC REPRESENTATIVES

As part of the visit of the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee, we were able to give a campus tour to Mark Valenzuela, Higher Education Analyst and Jonas Armstrong, Capital Projects Analyst. Under the guidance of Robert Griego and Ron Petranovich, we were able to provide in-depth information regarding land designations for the new physical plant building and the proposed career technical education center. We were also able to highlight the beauty of our campus and give a historical perspective on campus development.

FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK, SYLVIA!

We wished Human Resources Administrator Sylvia Hunt the very best of luck at a farewell potluck earlier this month. As much as we hate to see her leave, we are grateful for her many contributions to the campus. We say a fond "so long" and wish her the very best of luck in this newest stage of her career.

SPACE REALLOCATIONS

There has been much movement around campus the past few weeks as we have researched and determined optimal space utilization plans. Our leadership team has taken a close look at classroom and office reassignments for fiscal year 2019 that will provide the most strategic space usage. This week the dean of instruction's office has been moved back into the dean's suite in Calvin Hall. The previous space occupied by the dean has been redirected back into instructional space to better serve students. Through thoughtful and careful planning, staff and faculty are being more efficiently placed and classroom spaces are being put back on the instructional inventory.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

On May 14th I met with Russell Wyrick, Small Business Development Center State Director, to open negotiations to renew the Gallup SBDC Center contract. The center is successfully led by Cynthia Jarvison and offers a number of resources to start-up businesses and entrepreneurs. We were able to learn and have discussions about the emerging state business model for rural business centers. UNM-Gallup has always supported the mission of the SBDC and recognizes the benefits these statewide centers provide to communities.

A:SHIWI COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS CENTER

I was happy to accept an invitation to meet with Hayes Lewis of the A:shiwi College and Career Readiness Center in Zuni this past week. Their center is successfully operating through partnerships with multiple colleges and universities to offer a large variety of higher education options to students of the Zuni area. We worked on class schedules for the summer and fall semesters and are happy to be operating within this innovative educational model.

WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY

At the invitation of Debra Dirkson, Associate Dean of the College of Education of Western New Mexico University, I attended a meeting to discuss the possibility of collaborating on a graduate education partnership for fiscal year 2019. Thanks to these high level and comprehensive curriculum discussions, I will be presenting a partnership proposal as an agenda item at the CEO summer retreat with Provost Abdallah. I look forward to continued conversations with our main campus and WNMU officials to decide on the best way to meet the local need for upper division and graduate level coursework.

GEDA LUNCHEON

UNM-Gallup hosted the April luncheon meeting for the Gallup Executive Director's Alliance. This group of local leaders meets regularly to update and share information. The discussions highlight the role UNM-Gallup plays as a community resource and the interconnectedness of area civic organizations.



ROTARY LUNCHEON – SHARED HISTORIES

In an inspirational and very moving conversation at my regular Rotary meeting this week, I spoke with local hero Hershey Miyamura who is a community member, veteran and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. We realized we had a common history in that Hershey served in the same infantry division in Korea as did my father who is currently 86 and living a happy retired life in south Florida. My father, a decorated veteran, received the Bronze Star for his service. Hershey gifted me with

the unit coin for the 3rd Infantry Division (pictured below) and asked me to deliver it to my father. It will be my pleasure and great honor to make that delivery. Thank you to Hershey, my father and all of our veterans for their service.





NEW MEXICO WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with Anjelica Lancer earlier this week who is the director for the on-campus office of New Mexico Workforce Connections which operates through funding from the federal Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act. Their office provides a great service to our students by helping them obtain career readiness skills. I look forward to continuing this partnership as we appreciate and support the services they provide.

PIZZA WITH THE CHAIRS

Interim Dean of Instruction Irene Den Bleyker hosted a wonderful end of the semester/beginning of summer luncheon last week which offered the opportunity to say farewell to Laura Jijon, Director of the Adult Education Center as she leaves UNM-Gallup to take on new pathways. Laura nostalgically recalled her time leading the adult education program at our north side campus, and eloquently recounted the blessing and protection ceremony performed at the center early in her career. At the conclusion of the traditional blessing, the eagle feather used in the ceremony was passed on to Laura as a sign of the wisdom and compassion needed by all in leadership positions. Laura felt the feather belonged more to the university than to her personally, so as she exits

UNM-Gallup she passed on the feather to me. I am extremely moved by this transfer and will always do everything in my power to be wise, compassionate and protective of our institution and grateful to Laura for sharing this great gift with me.

PRESIDENT STOKES' STATEWIDE LISTENING TOUR

We were honored last week to be the second stop on UNM President Stokes' statewide listening tour. It was a delight to host the president and her entourage as we opened the campus for two receptions, a campus-wide coffee, a luncheon with the leadership team and the local advisory board chair. I thoroughly enjoyed leading a tour for Dr. Stokes and was very proud of how well our beautiful campus showed itself as well as the people who allowed us to visit their specific areas for demonstrations and information. As we strolled the campus we made 7 scheduled stops at:

- The Veterans Resource Center (Nick Brokeshoulder)
- Welding department (L.D. Lovett)
- Dental Assisting lab (Gail Woodcock)
- Nursing Sim-Man lab (Sabrina Ezzell)
- Chemistry lab (Joe Kee and Kamala Sharma)
- ECMC lab (Lewis Gambill
- Police station (Robert Griego, Sgt. Perez, and Officer Padilla)

The visit was a good way for the president to learn about our campus, our priorities, our mission and our commitment to academic excellence. Thanks to all who worked to pull everything together!

