



Office of the President

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DATE: May 1, 2024

TO: NMSU Students and employees

FROM: Mónica Torres, Interim NMSU President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Torres'.

SUBJECT: Demonstration on campus

As you may have seen, a group of students, faculty and community members marched across campus earlier this week in a Palestinian solidarity demonstration. This march concluded with the demonstrators setting up an encampment in NMSU's Aggie Forest, near the Corbett Center Outdoor Stage.

I want to make sure our campus community is aware of these activities. We know universities around the country are experiencing similar protests. Constitutionally, people in the U.S. have a right to protest peacefully, and public universities have a duty to respect, facilitate and protect this right. Efforts are being made to ensure First Amendment free speech protections are honored while ensuring the safety of our campus population.

A team of university leaders met with protesters shortly after they set up camp, and again the following morning. I, along with outgoing Interim President Jay Gogue and Interim Provost Lakshmi Reddi met with this team yesterday afternoon. We encourage open dialogue to ensure all voices are heard at this time.

A number of university resources are available to you, including the Aggie Health and Wellness Center, TimelyCare (<http://timelycare.com/nmsu>), and the University Police Department.

To learn more about free speech on college campuses, please see below:

[Right to protest - Amnesty International](#)

[Speech on Campus | American Civil Liberties Union \(aclu.org\)](#)

[Stay Safe & Healthy at a Public Demonstration | Drake University](#)