



Office of the Chancellor

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DATE: August 3, 2018
TO: NMSU Employees
FROM: Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu
SUBJECT: Dan's Dispatch

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan E. Arvizu".

For the past few weeks, I have continued to meet with stakeholders and potential partners at White Sands Missile Range, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Labs and other groups. I've also met with donors and legislators from across the region. For each of these meetings, the key takeaway has been that there is strong support for NMSU and there is interest in enhancing our strategic partnerships. The future is very bright for our university.

Since the beginning of June, President Floros and I have delivered weekly messages to employees across the NMSU system. These communications allow us to share our thoughts on important topics, bringing everyone up to speed on issues facing the university. I've decided to call my portion of these weekly communications to campus "Dan's Dispatch." Later this fall, I'll work to create some additional opportunities to meet face-to-face with groups of faculty and staff at gatherings I'm going to call "Dialogue with Dan." The intent of all this is to create an environment where NMSU employees are aware of what's happening on campus and at NMSU locations across the state. It's also an opportunity for me to hear directly from you regarding your concerns.

To that point, I'd like to address my recent news article and the issue of the role of higher education. You can read the article in its entirety here:

https://newscenter.nmsu.edu/Uploads/get/57764/lcsnews_20180729_Arvizu%20details%20vision%20for%20NMSU.pdf. I'm aware that some faculty members were concerned with what they interpreted to be a lack of support for what they do each day for our students. I want to stress that I am not against our university mission of knowledge creation, analysis, synthesis and transfer. As I've stated in the past, our strategic intent is that we will be a student-centric university, known for excellence in scholarship and to be a catalyst for economic development and place-based innovation. Those ideals cannot be achieved without a strong academic operation.

That said, we also need to address and support the fact that the students we educate must be prepared for the market place of the 21st Century. Important skills like problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication are among the most important abilities our students need in order to be successful. New Mexico's legislators, and the communities we serve, expect us to produce these kinds of graduates.

Have a great weekend.