

March 24, 2025

Dear members of our NMSU community,

Most of us are now aware of Friday night's mass shooting at Young Park in Las Cruces that resulted in the tragic death of three young men and injuries to many more people.

As members of the extended Las Cruces community, we grieve and empathize with everyone who was affected and feel deep sorrow for those who died, as well as for the injured, the survivors and the families in our communities that must cope with the challenges that the coming weeks, months, and years will bring.

When death occurs senselessly, as it did over a car show on Friday, we must reflect on the underlying principles that led some to prioritize pride and 'show' over life, as well as what triggers many to speak with guns instead of words when disagreements over external matters arise. So more so when the loss of life is that of young people still in the formative years of their existence.

While every life lost to violence is tragic, the loss of young life is ever more so, because it brings with it the loss of promise and the despair of unfulfilled potential that fades into the finality of death.

Sadly, we know that the tragic shooting has altered forever the trajectory of many lives, even as it is not given to us to predict how those who survived, injured or uninjured, or as relatives and friends, will have their lives changed by these events. Yet, we must support and hope to be better for those we know among them.

Our services are available for those who need support in their anger, grief, and suffering. For those seeking additional emotional support in the aftermath of this event, virtual mental health counseling services are available to students through [TimelyCare](#) — a virtual health and well-being platform designed for college students. Students do not need insurance to access TimelyCare services. Counseling services are also offered through our [Aggie Health and Wellness Center](#), and for employees, through [Well-Being Solutions](#).

Our hearts must connect with our actions to make this tragedy a spur to become better. Let's not let this be someone else's problem. As a community of learners, let's learn what we can from our neighboring communities, and be available to embrace the change we must build together.

Many thanks to our Public Safety personnel who helped in the aftermath of the event, especially Chief Justin Dunivan and his team.

We mourn the loss of AJ Madrid, Jason Gomez and Dominick Estrada and extend our deep condolences to their families and the families of everyone affected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerio C. Ferme". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Valerio C. Ferme  
NMSU President