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DATE: October 15, 2024

TO: NMSU Community

FROM: Mónica F. Torres, Interim President

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

SUBJECT: Honoring the Indigenous peoples of our land

This week, I'm pleased to join with our [American Indian Program](#) and our [Office of Equity, Inclusion and Diversity](#) in celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day. This holiday was signed into law here in New Mexico by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham in 2019 and is celebrated by many in the United States to honor the diverse cultures and histories of the Indigenous peoples of our land.

New Mexico is home to 23 Native American nations, pueblos and tribes, and those communities and their rich cultural heritage are a beautiful aspect of our state's identity. Indigenous Peoples' Day offers all of us an opportunity to honor their important place in our cultural identity. It also provides a moment to reflect on our complex and sometimes difficult shared history in this place.

Across the NMSU system, we are working to strengthen our relationships with tribal communities and seeking to understand how we can best engage and support them through our research and outreach work.

On the Las Cruces campus, we're honoring and celebrating Indigenous Peoples' *Week* with events aimed at building community. If you missed the opening events, you can still take part in a beading workshop, a movie night, dinner featuring flavors of the Pueblo of Laguna and line dance lessons with Miss Native American NMSU. For a full schedule of events, visit aip.nmsu.edu or follow the NMSU American Indian Program on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).

As I reflect on this holiday, I want to say thank you to the students, faculty and staff from Indigenous nations, pueblos and tribes who choose to make the NMSU system their academic home. We are grateful for the knowledge and the beauty you share and the community we create together.

Go Aggies!