



Office of the Chancellor

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DATE: Nov. 22, 2022

TO: NMSU students and employees

FROM: Dan E. Arvizu, NMSU Chancellor

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

SUBJECT: Club Q Shooting

Over the weekend, our nation was again shaken by the news of a mass shooting that targeted members of the LGBTQ+ community and their friends and allies. Calling to mind the devastating 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting in Florida, the attack on Club Q in Colorado Springs was a reminder that LGBTQ+ Aggies and loved ones face heightened risk every day simply for living their lives and expressing their identities with authenticity.

This is not the way it should be, and this type of hate and violence has no place in our communities. Unfortunately, an event like this leaves us with more questions than answers as our country continues to grapple with issues of bigotry, gun violence, and gaps in our mental health care system.

Here at NMSU, we are fortunate to have a wonderful and vibrant community of LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff – and we strive every day to make NMSU a place where they know they belong. The LGBTQ+ community contributes to the Aggie culture that makes NMSU the amazing and diverse university that we are.

NMSU is also a place where we want every person to feel safe. When that sense of safety is shaken for one part of our community, it is shaken for all of us. Like you, I was devastated to learn of the tragic loss of life and the many injuries, both physical and psychological, that will affect the people directly impacted by this act of violence and their families forever. If you want to talk to someone about your feelings in the wake of this event, NMSU has counseling resources available to support you. Please call the Aggie Health and Wellness Center at 575-646-1512 for more information.

At NMSU, we are strong and resilient because of the insights and contributions of every individual and group that makes up our community – and we are strongest when we stand together. I stand with our LGBTQ+ community and denounce this act of violence. I want everyone in our NMSU community to know that you are seen, valued, and accepted – just as you are. NMSU's LGBTQ+ Programs has been a vital part of NMSU programming and interested LGBTQ+ and ally students are always welcome to visit their office in Corbett 208 and to participate with their daily online programming at [nmsu_lgbt](https://nmsu_lgbt.com) on Instagram.