

Dear Coyote Family,

The end of the fall semester on campus is filled with familiar traditions: classes have ended, final exams are complete, grades are officially being recorded and we've celebrated the success of our graduates during commencement ceremonies. This year, commencement was particularly meaningful as we held our first in-person ceremonies in two years for graduates who earned degrees during June and December 2020, June 2021 and December 2021.

As a university community, traditions are important. They contribute to our sense of belonging, strengthen our bonds as a community, and reinforce our core values, the driving force that moves us to accomplish our mission and goals.

During the past year, we've continued to honor old traditions, at times adapting and innovating, but always honoring our values as we work together to achieve our common aims. I want to extend my sincere appreciation and respect to the entire university community for building on our values: to our faculty members for your extraordinary efforts to ensure the academic success of our students; to our staff for demonstrating remarkable flexibility and persistence during challenging times; and to our students for your resilience and determination.

The winter break is a wonderful opportunity to gather safely and enjoy family and friends, to recognize time-honored traditions and perhaps create new ones, and to usher in the beginning of a promising new year.

I wish you all good health, vitality and a peaceful holiday season, and look forward to seeing you on campus in 2022.

Sincerely,

**Tomás D. Morales**  
President