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DATE: October 29, 2015
TO: All NMSU Faculty and Staff
FROM: Garrey Carruthers, Chancellor
SUBJECT: Information Security

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Garrey Carruthers', written over a horizontal line.

NMSU has taken on a number of initiatives to enhance information security as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure proper compliance with data-privacy laws and regulations, as well as better secure NMSU data.

One initiative is the encryption of sensitive data. We are asking employees to focus on encrypting NMSU data on all mobile computing devices (laptops, notebooks, tablets, phones, etc.). Mobile devices are prone to loss, theft and compromise, but do not represent a data breach risk to the institution, if the data they contain is encrypted.

Some examples of sensitive data include social security numbers, date of birth in combination with name and address, protected health information, credit card information, student grades, sensitive research and building control information.

Desktop computers will be a focus of this effort once encryption of mobile devices is completed. I recently took the step to have the data on my computers and those of my staff encrypted. The goal is to complete the encryption initiative by October 1, 2016.

College and departmental IT staff should coordinate through the ICT Information Security Group at Infosec@nmsu.edu, for guidance on the encryption process and central management of encryption keys. Employees should contact your department's IT staff or the NMSU help desk at help@nmsu.edu or by calling 575-646-1840 for information on encrypting the data on equipment.

For more information about Information Security at NMSU, visit infosec.nmsu.edu. Thank you and remember information security is everyone's responsibility.