April 5, 2018

Dean Miriam Chaiken, of New Mexico State University’s Honors College, reached out to school administrators in Parkland, Florida, after learning one of their students had been declined admission to California public universities though he had a 4.2 grade point average. Dean Chaiken did so because she was impressed by this group of students who felt the courage to stand up for what they believe is right.

As a university, we understand there is often a wide array of feelings toward any issue. We also understand that in today’s political environment, these feelings are heightened and we’ve heard from many in our community, and around the country. An important function of a university is to facilitate the free flow of information and to provide an opportunity for all sides of an issue to present their case.

Regarding some of the items that have been reported in the news, it should be stated that all undergraduates must first apply to NMSU and the determination of acceptance resides with the Undergraduate Admissions Office. At NMSU, all students who apply to enroll who have a high school GPA of 3.75 or better, or an ACT score of 26 or better, are automatically admitted to the Honors College, and have the opportunities that entails.

Additionally, NMSU is continuously fundraising to support students through scholarships, to support professional development activities, and to challenge our students to take a path of pursuing excellence. Additional fundraising for expanding the availability of scholarships is a university-wide commitment, which includes the Honors College.

Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D.
Chancellor