



DEPARTMENT OF
SPEECH & HEARING
SCIENCES

May 10, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the UNM Athletics Department to request a posthumous degree for student-athlete Jackson Lloyd Weller. Jackson was seeking a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts degree at the time of his fatal shooting on May 4, 2019.

Jackson transferred to UNM from Gateway Community College in Arizona in the fall of 2018 in order to play baseball. He practiced with the UNM baseball team in Fall, 2018 and completed 18 credit hours of coursework with a 3.5 GPA. Because he underwent surgery for an injury to his pitching arm, he was not on the active team roster in Spring, 2019. He was enrolled in 15 credit hours for the Spring, 2019 semester. Jackson intended to return to the UNM baseball team in Fall, 2019 and had registered for 15 credit hours that semester. With his transfer coursework and classes taken at UNM, he completed 80 credit hours toward his degree, more than half of the credits required for the BA in Liberal Arts, with an overall GPA of 3.225.

Jackson was a native of Keller, Texas and played high school baseball at Nolan Catholic School in Fort Worth, TX. As a player, his UNM baseball coach Ray Birmingham regarded him as a “fierce pitcher and fierce competitor.” He was considered to be “someone who made us a family” by his teammates, and they celebrated his attendance at every game, even away games out of the state, when he was not an active member of the team. His Twitter account was full of uplifting messages, and his support and enthusiasm for the UNM baseball team was greatly valued by his teammates and coaches.

Jackson’s untimely death has deeply affected his teammates, coaches and Athletic Department staff, friends and acquaintances at UNM and around Albuquerque, and his family members including his mother Lisa Praeger and his father Patrick Weller. We hope that honoring Jackson’s accomplishments with this degree will provide some consolation to all of those who miss him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy T. Neel".

Amy T. Neel, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Associate Professor
Faculty Athletics Representative