Yesterday was the ninth annual Data Privacy Day (DPD), an international effort held each year on January 28th to create awareness about the importance of privacy and protecting personal information. DPD, led by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) in North America, is the signature event of NCSA’s year-round privacy awareness campaign and is centered on the theme of “Respecting Privacy, Safeguarding Data and Enabling Trust.”

As NMSU employees, this is a good opportunity to remind ourselves of the responsibility we have to safeguard the sensitive information entrusted to us by our students, donors, faculty and staff.

Many laws and regulations exist that require NMSU to maintain the privacy of the sensitive data we use to conduct business.

The following data privacy laws and regulations directly govern NMSU data use:

- **FERPA** is the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which requires control over the disclosure of student information.
- **HIPAA** is the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, which requires control over the disclosure of medical information.
- **GLBA** is the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999, which requires control over the disclosure of nonpublic information.
- **RFR** is the (Identity Theft) Red Flags Rule provision of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003, which requires control over the disclosure of Personally Identifiable Information.
- **FISMA** is the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002, which sets forth information security requirements that federal agencies and any other parties collaborating with such agencies (grantees) must follow in an effort to effectively safeguard IT systems and the data they contain.
- **PCI DSS** is the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards, which require the proper protection and safe handling of cardholder information.

Please feel free to contact Carlos Lobato, NMSU’s IT Compliance Officer regarding any questions related to the above data privacy regulations or about any data privacy concerns at 646-5902 or clobato@nmsu.edu.

As always you are welcome to contact me at norma@nmsu.edu.

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