



## NMSU to Offer Programs at Pueblo of Acoma



A pilot program between the Pueblo of Acoma and NMSU's College of Business Administration and Economics will allow students from the Acoma area to earn a general business degree from New Mexico State University without leaving home.

Officials of the Pueblo and the University formalized a partnership designed to

increase the enrollment, retention, and academic achievement of students from the Pueblo, as well as other American Indian students in the area. One part of the agreement establishes an extended learning center on the Acoma Reservation that will offer degree programs through a combination of technology-based distance education and on-site instruction. This program will expand to other colleges next year. — *Karl Hill, University Communications*

Photo: NMSU President Michael Martin, center, prepares to sign a memorandum of understanding between the University and the Pueblo of Acoma with Marvis Aragon, right, First Lieutenant Governor of Acoma. Looking on at left is Harold Felipe, an NMSU-Grants business student from Acoma Pueblo. — *Kurt Nimmo*

## DE and SSD Work to Promote Awareness for Students with Disabilities

New Mexico State University's College of Extended Learning is working with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to ensure that faculty and staff become more aware of the needs of students with disabilities.

Faculty who think a student could benefit from SSD should refer them to the SSD office in Garcia Annex on NMSU's main campus 646-6840. The staff of SSD can help students identify the accommodations they need to help them succeed at NMSU. After a student has been evaluated, the SSD office specifies accommodations that meet that student's needs. Students not located in Las Cruces can make arrangements through SSD for an evaluation from their location.

When the student is a distance education student, SSD notifies the College of Extended Learning of any accommodations, such as extended time on tests. The College of Extended Learning ensures that instructors implement accommodations. SSD can help students with other needs, including access

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### Calendar of Events

#### College of Extended Learning

October 14–15 2004 Distance Education Conference: Collaborating for New Possibilities

#### ICT Training Services

October 12 WebCT in a Day  
October 18 WebCT in a Day  
October 26 Department Survey

#### Teaching Academy

October 21 Saving Dollars & Making Sense: Scalability and Distance Course Creation  
October 29 Discussion as a Way of Teaching

Visit the Faculty area of the Distance Education website [<http://www.nmsu.edu/distance>], then click the Professional Development link for these and other events.

## Profiles



**Michael Armendariz**  
Coordinator,  
Services for Students  
with Disabilities

Services for Students with Disabilities Coordinator Michael Armendariz is committed to providing reasonable, equitable, and safe accessibility to programs and services to all University students with documented disabilities. Armendariz said that because of the increasing popularity of online learning, he wants SSD to serve NMSU's College of Extended Learning. "Currently, we are evaluating the type of process that needs to be implemented so students with disabilities will have the equipment and resources needed to take online courses." Armendariz said that disabled students benefit from faculty awareness about the type of technology available to students and stronger communication with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities.

## LT Usergroup

This month's Learning Technologies Usergroup meeting took place on Friday October 8. Dr. Mark Workman presented Microsoft Producer for PowerPoint during a presentation titled: "Putting the Sage Back on the Online Stage". Microsoft Producer is a free software add-on that helps instructors integrate, synchronize, and publish audio, video, images, and PowerPoint slides as rich-media presentations. The next LT Usergroup meeting is set for November 12. Contact Tim Barnett-Queen [trbqueen@nmsu.edu] for more information

## DE Reports From the Colleges

### College of Arts and Sciences

With the success of the Department of Criminal Justice online masters degree through the College of Extended Learning, which began in 2000, the Department plans to offer two upper division criminal justice classes for Spring 2005. The first course, CJ 331 American Correctional Institution, focuses on the structural and operational systems of the American jail systems. The second course, CJ 411 Introduction to the Nature of Crime, is a criminological theory class. Dr. Jim Maupin, the Criminal Justice Department Head, said the idea behind offering more courses online is to continue to serve New Mexico State University's land grant mission. "The demand for online course is there," Maupin said. "Our online masters program began with only seven students in 2000 and has about 37 students right now."

### College of Business Administration and Economics

In July, the College of Business Administration and Economics began working with representatives of Acoma Pueblo, Acoma Business Enterprises, and NMSU-Grants to develop a distance education program to meet the needs of students around Acoma and Grants. Several students have enrolled in Internet courses for the fall semester, and a face-to-face course will be offered each semester at Acoma beginning in spring 2005. The combination of Internet and face-to-face classes will lead to a bachelor of business administration degree with a major in general business. — Associate Dean Kathleen Brook

### College of Education

New Mexico State University's College of Education now offers several new online programs, including:

A master's program with emphasis in special education — This program includes classes previously developed for the Special Education Alternative Licensure Program, and courses such as: Current Issues in Special Education and The Master's Seminar. Students interested in the program may begin by applying to Graduate School and Special Education/Communication Disorders Department. For additional information, call The Office of Licensure and Endorsement for Alternative Preparation in Education visit their website at <http://education.nmsu.edu/> or at 646-2125.

The Special Education Alternative Licensure Program — The program, which is 21 graduate credit hours, is available to people with at least a baccalaureate degree who have not completed a traditional teacher preparation program. Other requirements include employment as a special education teacher with an Internship (waiver) License and admission to NMSU Graduate School and SPED/CD Department. Classes include High Incidence Disabilities and Classroom Management of Exceptional Learners. For additional information visit <http://education.nmsu.edu/>

A master's program with an emphasis in Early Childhood — The program consists of 33 credits hours, including curriculum and instruction core courses like Multicultural Education, Curriculum and Pedagogy, Research in Curriculum and Instruction, and Technology and Pedagogy. For additional information contact Luis-Vicente Reyes, Ph.D, at [louireye@nmsu.edu](mailto:louireye@nmsu.edu)

The Department of Educational Management and Development designed

## DE and SSD Work to Promote Awareness...

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to assistive hardware or software. Students use assistive software and hardware tools to render electronic content (including web pages, email, and video captions) into a format that they can use. For example, a student with a visual impairment may prefer to listen to text on the computer. Faculty can meet the needs of students with disabilities by becoming more aware of legal requirements and by making web content accessible to all users.

### The Legal Issues

Faculty and staff's awareness and use of assistive technology is not enough to insure that electronic content is accessible for students with disabilities and meets the guidelines outlined in New Mexico House Bill 708, which passed during the 2003 regular legislation sessions. New Mexico's House Bill 708 states that each institution of higher education that offers distance computer-based instructional materials must provide the materials in accessible electronic formats that are usable by an individual with a disability.

Another law regarding the needs of students with disabilities is Section 508, which requires federal agencies to make their electronic and technology information available to people with disabilities. Section 508 Website was enacted to eradicate barriers in information technology, provide new opportunities to people with disabilities, and promote the development of technology that would achieve these goals [<http://section508.gov/>].

Federal agencies are required to purchase electronic and information technology that is accessible to employees and the members of the public who are disabled as long as it is not a burden on the agency. However, Section 508 does not apply to the private sector or to agencies or establishments using federal funds.

### Resources

Accessibility is often thought of as simply making web pages accessible to the blind, but accessibility, more accurately described as universal design, is really about making web content available to all users, not just those with disabilities.

Who benefits from services for students with disabilities?

Visual impairments — blindness, low vision, and color-blindness

Hearing impairments — deafness and hard-of-hearing

Mobility impairments — inability to use hands, tremors, and slow muscular movement

Others — those with learning disabilities, reading disorders, and attention deficit disorders

The following Websites can help faculty make more accessible Webpages.

### New Mexico State University Services for Students with Disabilities

**Website** [<http://www.nmsu.edu/~ssd/>] — resources for students, links to forms, libraries and services that provide alternative access to course texts such as books in Braille and on audio tape.

Faculty interested in testing their web pages or websites for accessibility can use resources such as Bobby [<http://bobby.watchfire.com/bobby/html/en/index.jsp>], or Wave [<http://www.wave.webaim.org/index.jsp>].

## Resources

### More Faculty/Student Resources

Other excellent Internet Resources for faculty with disabled students and for all students include:

### Education and Outreach

#### Working Group (EOWG) [<http://www.w3.org/WAI/EO/>]

— guidelines to help faculty make sites more accessible to students with disabilities. One example, Guideline 1.1 Provide text alternatives for all non-text content includes examples of text alternatives for all non-text content as well as examples for providing descriptions of all important visual information for multimedia.

#### WebAIM [<http://www.webaim.org/>]

— products and services that help organizations make Web content more accessible to people with disabilities.

#### The Trace Center [<http://trace.wisc.edu/>]

— works on ways to make standard information technologies and telecommunications systems more accessible and usable by people with disabilities

### Assistive hardware work

**station** — The College of Extended Learning has a computer workstation with assistive hardware on permanent loan from the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation/New Mexico Assistance Program. The computer, which is located on the NMSU main campus in Milton Hall room 80, includes a touch screen monitor, voice recognition software, JAWS Screen Reader, and a trackball among other things. All faculty and students in DE have access to this computer.

## News and Events

For a listing of international events and national visit the *DE Clearinghouse Conference Database* [[www.uwex.edu/disted/conference.html](http://www.uwex.edu/disted/conference.html)].

For recent distance education headlines, visit *Daily News* at *Distance-Educator.com* [[www.distance-educator.dcom/dnews/](http://www.distance-educator.dcom/dnews/)].

For news for college and university faculty members and administrators visit *The Chronicle on Higher Education* site [[www.chronicle.com](http://www.chronicle.com)].

For recent campus technology headlines visit *Syllabus* [[www.syllabus.com](http://www.syllabus.com)].

## About UpClose

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We welcome your ideas, comments, and suggestions for UpClose. To submit a story idea, please contact us no later than the 15th of the month for publication in the following issue.

## DE Reports...

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the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program (ELDP) — administrators in elementary and secondary educational as well as university employees. This prepares administrators to lead the movement to change educational systems so that they become equitable and responsive to all learners in our multicultural and diverse society. The ELDP doctoral program requires a commitment of three-and-a-half years from participants. Course work delivery will use media such as WebCT, interactive television, and DVD/CD as much as possible. However, ELDP may require students to travel to Las Cruces one weekend per month for classroom instruction.

### College of Engineering

The Industrial Engineering Department will offer the following online classes during the spring 2005 semester:

IE 561 Advanced Safety Engineering  
IE 533 Linear Programming  
IE 505 Directed Readings  
IE 590/EE 590

The Engineering Technology Department will offer additional courses to expand the ICT degree completion program. These courses include:

ICT 339 Computer Forensics  
ICT 462 Operating Systems and Interfacing  
ICT 477 Computer Networking II

### College of Health and Social Services

The RN-BSN Program allows registered nurses to earn a baccalaureate degree in nursing. The program uses compressed scheduling, and interactive television, WebCT enhanced instruction to deliver classes to branch locations in Alamogordo and Carlsbad from the main campus in Las Cruces. Since its 2003 beginning, this program has doubled and will serve almost 50 students in 2005.

## The Vice Provost's Corner



As distance education programs continue to grow at NMSU, we increase our contact with students with disabilities. It is our mission to serve all students, especially non-traditional students who are better served by distance education than by a traditional university environment. As we become aware of and meet the needs of students with disabilities, we make technology-based learning accessible to all our students. With that in mind, we as educators can do more for these students

by forming a strong partnership not only with them but also with NMSU's Services for Students with Disabilities. Our goal is two-fold: 1) to ensure that every student is aware of the services offered through SSD and 2) that faculty make appropriate accommodations for students when necessary. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call our office for assistance or direction.

Dr. Carmen L. Gonzales  
Vice Provost for Distance Education  
Dean of the College of Extended Learning