

News and Events

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For recent distance education headlines, visit *Daily News at Distance-Educator.com* [www.distance-educator.com/news/]

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About UpClose

UpClose is published by the NMSU Division of Student Success.

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We welcome your ideas, comments, and suggestions for UpClose.

Student learning....

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of Campus Activities, works with students and their organizations to optimize the success of their program.

Sometimes this involves controversy. In fall 2006, the newly chartered organization Aggies for Life sponsored "Justice for All", a graphic exhibit protesting abortion. The exhibit featured a two-story display of photographs of aborted fetuses and prompted engagement. "Few people were able to walk by without engaging somehow. People would stop and look, stop and listen, stop and talk," Dr. Waldo said. "Although some people were unhappy about the exhibit, it prompted some really good discussion."

Most engagement with student organizations involves primarily students working with students. This connection to campus is important for Ingrid Hernandez, a commuter student from El Paso. A human nutrition and food science major, Ms. Hernandez said "It is harder to stay at school and do stuff, but it is worth it for the involvement with faculty and other students."

Mickie McCaffrey, elementary education major from Las Cruces, is organizing the 2007 Halloween Howl for the Union Program Council. Dozens of campus groups attract hundreds of trick-or-treaters every Halloween from the University community. Organizing this, Ms. McCaffrey said, has challenged her "to be a leader and make decisions."

Career Services and Counseling and Student Development (UpClose, January 2007) are also part of the Dean of Students Office.

The Vice President's corner



In 1991, Pascarella and Terenzini wrote "The research is unequivocal: students who are involved in both academic and out-of-classroom activities gain more from the college experience than those who are not so involved." This fact has been confirmed repeatedly since then and is the underlying assumption of surveys like the Student Satisfaction Index and the National Survey of Student Engagement.

Engagement of students is coming to be recognized for its worth in higher education. Many faculty at NMSU include service learning in their courses: students in Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management plan events as part of a class and some professors require community service. Management Department's Dr.

Rosile typically has 20 groups of students fanning out to work with the community each semester, in schools, nursing homes, and homeless shelters.

Interested faculty and staff need look no further than the web for a wealth of resources about service learning, and the Teaching Academy has regular workshops on engaging students in and out of the classroom.

Dr. Carmen L. Gonzales
Vice President for Student Success
College of Extended Learning Dean



Career Fair and Resumania: Preparing for life after NMSU



LAURA GRANT/DIVISION OF STUDENT SUCCESS
Students receive information from over 200 employers during NMSU Career Service's Career Expo September 18-19 in Corbett Center.

Over 2,000 students mingled with nearly 200 employers at Career Service's Career Expo September 18-19. Steven Salway, Director of Career Services, called this "A collaborative event involving a number of campus departments and organizations."

Students prepared for the Expo by polishing their resumes with

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Student learning outside the classroom

Students may arrive at NMSU looking for an academic experience, but Dean of Students Scott Moore wants them to leave with skills learned outside the classroom that support and connect to their academic experience.

"Students spend a lot of time in class, but they also learn things outside of the classroom that can help them apply classroom knowledge," said Moore. "NMSU's programs can help students with life skills like advocacy, community engagement, leadership, and career development."

The Student Health Center is a good example. Like other units affiliated with the Dean of Students, the Health Center supports and facilitates student academics — healthy students make better learners. But they go beyond health care to help students become informed consumers of health care and an advocate for their own wellness. The Health Center also hires students and encourages them to explore careers in healthcare.

Community involvement is at the heart of Campus Activities, which is the office that charters all student organizations. NMSU has over 200 student organizations that span interests from cultural, sports, religious, professional, honorary, and social.

This office also approves all requests for activities, whether sponsored by a department or a student organization. Dr. Susan Waldo (article, page 2), Director

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Calendar of Events

Teaching Academy

For additional registration details, visit teaching.nmsu.edu or call (575) 646-2204

October

- 8 So You Want to Do a Textbook
- 15 Be All You Can Be—Teach: Twelve Steps to Help Teachers Flourish
- 16 Be All You Can Be—Teach: Twelve Steps to Help Teachers Flourish
- 18 Student Study Skills: Helping Students Transition to College
- 19 Integrating Active Learning Techniques into your Lecture

November

- 8 Five Interactive Styles of Teaching and How They Produce Different Results
- 9 Responding to Diversity: Three Pedagogical Changes that Improve Retention and Achievement

Calendars

Academic

Fall semester

October

- 12 Last day to submit a degree application with a late fee
16 Last day to drop with a "W"

November

- 16 Last day to withdraw from the University
19–23 Thanksgiving holiday for students

December

- 10–14 Exam week
14 Last day of classes
15 Commencement
18 Residence halls close

ICT Training Services

For registration details, contact training@nmsu.edu or (575) 646-5125

October

- 9 WebCT Basics
16 Creating Quizzes/Surveys Using Respondus
17 Converting Materials for the Web
18 WebCT Assignment Tool
19 TS- Digital Image Editing
22 & 24 WebCT Basics in the Afternoon
31 WebCT Content Module

November

- 6 TS- WebCT Quiz Tool

Campus Activities: Leadership and learning

According to the National Survey of Student Engagement, "Grades, persistence, student satisfaction, and engagement go hand-in-hand."

Working under the umbrella of Campus Activities, students learn as they organize perennial campus favorites like the Halloween Howl, Noche de las Luminarias, and Greek Week. "We do cool stuff, but it is hard to quantify," said Dr. Susan Waldo, Director of Campus Activities.

However, through the Student Involvement Log [<http://ccst.nmsu.edu/>], Dr. Waldo created a co-curricular transcript that documents outside-the-classroom involvement as an addendum to a student's academic transcript. Students input all the information into the Involvement Log online, but after the content is verified, the final copies are printed and signed at the Campus Activities Office.

Dr. Waldo encourages students to plan their involvement just as they plan coursework, and the Involvement website has a tool for this. About 100 students are currently developing their Involvement Logs, and Dr. Waldo expects that number to increase as students become aware of this resource. "All students should leave NMSU with an SIL."

Students interested in developing leadership skills are encouraged to consider the Leadership Certificate Program. This program has eight requirements, including workshops and a leadership role in student organizations.

Student involvement and leadership help students develop multiple skills such as public speaking, conflict resolution, planning and decision making, and civic action—a critical complement to the knowledge and skill base acquired through classroom learning. Helping students with their plans is rewarding to Dr. Waldo. "Students are the energizers, the new ideas, the pith," she said.

Career Fair....

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LAURA GRANT/DIVISION OF STUDENT SUCCESS

Yun Wong gets help preparing his resume during Resumania hosted by NMSU Career Services in September.



Susan Waldo
DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

advice from professionals at Resumania. This week-long event at the Foreman Complex Courtyard helped students prepare a professional resume for potential employers.

Career Services also hosted a Graduate and Professional School Fair in October; a fair for students interested in careers in public service will be held on October 23 [<http://www.nmsu.edu/~pment/index.html>].

News Briefs

College of Extended Learning

The College of Extended Learning first offered the Bachelor of Individualized Studies and the Bachelor of Applied Studies degrees in spring 2005. That June there were seven students in the BIS/BAS program; today there are 102. To date, 54 students have graduated with BIS/BAS degrees, and 32 more are scheduled to graduate this fall.

OTLGC Program

The Online Teaching and Learning Graduate Certificate Program, a one-year, fifteen-credit program from the College of Extended Learning, offered four out of five of the program's courses this semester. The first cohort of 11 students will complete the program in December, as the second cohort (over 20 students) completes the first two courses. A third cohort will start next fall.

Dr. George to head American Indian Program

Dr. Maggie George will join NMSU as the Director for American Indian Programs starting November 1. Dr. George has been the Director of Educational Equity and Access for the New Mexico Higher Education Department in Santa Fe since 2005; before that she worked with Diné College and Haskell Indian Nations University as an administrator and in student services. She also brings to NMSU experience as a counselor and teacher at both elementary and college levels. Because of her immersion in civil rights and Indian self-determination efforts, Dr. George is sensitive to the challenges of getting an education while retaining a language and cultural identity.

QuickConnect

The QuickConnect early alert and intervention program has been implemented for Fall 2007. This semester's program includes over 100 class sections holding more than 4,000 registered students.

Healthy Aggies at the Health Center

The Student Health Center sponsored Healthy Aggie Week, September 17–20. Each day featured information on SHC services along with health tips on stress, nutrition, diet, exercise, sleep, and alcohol use. The Student and University Health Centers joined the "Aggies — Tough Enough to Wear Pink" event in September by providing information on breast self-exam, mammography, and breast cancer. The event kicked off the Center's support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

TRIO hires new staff

The TRIO Student Support Services Program hired Eva Menchaca-Lopez as their new director. The SSS program serves 350 low-income, first generation NMSU students. The TRIO Educational Talent Search Program hired Larry Ytuarte, Brenda Velazquez, and Jason Barela. They will work with 600 middle and high school students in the Gadsden Independent School District.

Review: Community, Diversity, and Unity Video

Improving student academic success through a discussion about diversity, tolerance, and the importance of working toward a diverse student, staff, and faculty population are the focus of a recently released video featuring individuals from the NMSU community.

In the video David Rutledge, of the NMSU College of Education, interviews students from various backgrounds to discuss their perceptions of diversity and the difficulties associated with the lack of tolerance. Diversity, stereotyping, student conflicts and difficulties, differences within groups, and advice for educators on how to create a more positive learning environment are discussed over multiple segments.

The video is based on work supported by the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Special Assistant to the Provost Cynda Clary and Jeanne Gleason of Media Productions at NMSU directed the project. For more information visit <http://diversity.nmsu.edu>.

The Teaching Academy will host a workshop on related material, *Responding to Diversity: Three Pedagogical Changes that Improve Retention and Achievement* (see Teaching Academy Calendar, page 1). This workshop will focus on the relevance of diversity in courses. The workshop will demonstrate how to reduce or eliminate low grades in lecture courses without lowering standards, how to make students more successful using limited class time to level the playing field for all groups, and how to recognize assessment that favors particular groups.