



UpClose

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Aggie Welcome Week a success



DEVIN NEELEY/OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS

Students gather during a game of fireman's volleyball at the Root Beer Keg Party during Aggie Welcome Week.

About 750 first-year Aggies and their families greeted the new semester early during Aggie Welcome Week (AWW), which started August 18. Incoming students spent time moving into residence halls, getting to know their neighbors, and taking part in events

designed to ease the transition from high school and home to college.

Aggie Welcome Week, organized by Valerie Pickett of the Office of Student Success, helps students acclimate to life as an Aggie. Working with counselors, students in teams of 10–12 “have fun and get to know NMSU,” said Devin Neeley, a senior journalism major who was a student leader for this year’s events. In Neeley’s experience, “Most students really want to know where their classes are. But they also get good information about college readiness.”

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Enrollment improves at NMSU

The numbers are good: At the end of August, undergraduate enrollment of first-year students and transfers is up by 8 percent, and financial aid paid out this semester is greater than the amount disbursed over last year. NMSU’s overall enrollment increased by 1.6 percent, but in University offices that manage enrollment, staff are already focusing recruiting next year’s incoming class and helping current students fund their education.

Enrollment plays a key role in New Mexico’s funding for higher education. Student services funding is based on headcount alone. Academic (I&G) funding, which is a greater portion of NMSU’s funding, is based on the number of student credit hours generated. “Although a smaller part of NMSU’s funding is based on it, student headcount is important,” according to Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management Dr. Bernadette Montoya. “Without the students, we cannot generate the student credit hours.”

Getting those students was a major focus for Enrollment Management during the last school year. As NMSU high school graduation rates drop, fewer students are eligible to attend college. Despite that challenge, last year’s re-energized recruitment drive paid off with an incoming class 8 percent bigger than last year’s.

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Calendar of Events

Teaching Academy

For additional registration details, visit teaching.nmsu.edu or call (505) 646-2204

October

- 1 Student Evaluations of Your Class: Another Option
- 4 NMSU ePortfolio: Case Studies & Lessons Learned in Portfolio Use by NMSU Students
- 8 So You Want to Do a Textbook
- 15 Be All You Can Be-Teach: Twelve Steps to Help Teachers Flourish
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- 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 additional registration details, contact training@nmsu.edu or (505) 646-5125

September

- 6 WebCT Quiz Tool
8 WebCT for Graduate/Teaching Assistants
10 & 12 WebCT Basics in the Afternoon
12 WebCT Assignment Tool
13 Creating Quizzes/Surveys Using Respondus
18 Converting Materials for the Web
19 WebCT Basics
20 WebCT Content Module
21 TS- Digital Image Editing
26 Synchronous Tools on Campus
28 WebCT Basics

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

Aggie Welcome Week...

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DEVIN NEELEY/OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS

Student volunteers participate in Move-In Day during Aggie Welcome Week.

Families were an important part of Aggie Welcome Week events, with a complementary dinner Saturday night and time Sunday morning for farewells. "Families also really appreciated the staff panel," said Jennifer Hiatt, Assistant Vice President for Student Success. "They want to know that their students will have access to health care and counseling, academic support, religious services, and other out-of-classroom assistance. We want them to know that they have made a good choice in sending their student to NMSU."

In the three years NMSU has held Aggie Welcome Week, nearly 2000 students have participated. More important, students who attend AWW are retained at a higher rate than those who don't. According to Devin Neeley, students who attend AWW are better prepared and more comfortable on campus by the time school begins. Feeling like part of a community is a crucial element in keeping students in school.



BRENDA MAZO/DIVISION OF STUDENT SUCCESS

The NMSU Pride Band performs during the Concert on the Green during Aggie Welcome Week.

News Briefs

Technology Series seeks proposals

NMSU's College of Extended Learning has called for proposals for the 2007–2008 College of Extended Learning Teaching with Technology Series: For Educators By Educators. The series highlights how NMSU educators integrate emerging technologies to enhance teaching and learning in distance and face-to-face courses. Educators should submit proposals for hands-on workshops on how to integrate technology into courses to engage students. Notification of acceptance begins September 14. Please visit http://extended.nmsu.edu/tech_series/ to submit a proposal. For more information contact Laura Grant at lgrant@nmsu.edu or 646-4699.

QuickConnect

The Office of Student Success' QuickConnect early alert/intervention program piloted in 2006–2007 is being continued into 2007–2008. QuickConnect uses class absences and other instructor concerns as prompts to contact students who may be struggling during the semester. Participating instructors are asked to monitor attendance and refer students who miss at least three class sessions or about whom they have academic or personal concerns. Students who are referred are contacted by a responder in an attempt to identify any challenges and point them to appropriate resources. Over 75 course sections are participating in QuickConnect for Fall 2007.

Enrollment....

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Enrollment Management's Financial Aid Office helps those students stay in school by matching student financial need with funding sources. This semester, that task was challenging because all student aid was dispersed through Banner for the first time. But increased outreach paid off, and more financial support found its way to students in the form of grants, scholarships, and loans. Outreach regarding financial aid is not just for parents. NMSU sponsors events at middle schools and has College Goal Sunday clinics that help families apply for financial aid. Another outreach effort, Money Management University, teaches students how to spend wisely and save, and how to decrease loan debt.

Up next for Enrollment Management is recruiting 2008's incoming class and planning for the future. Matt Hulett of NMSU Admissions described a recruitment effort that included all of New Mexico and portions of Colorado, California, Arizona, Texas, Washington, and even Alaska. Recruiting events include the 53rd Annual Counselors' Conference, Aggie Experience for high school seniors in November, and Spring Visitors' Day.

Student recruitment efforts are not limited to just the Admissions Office, however. The Office of Financial Aid is focusing on outreach and providing financial assistance to prospective students. Work with local school districts, TRIO programs, and other agencies already has begun. The Financial Aid Office is also planning the 2008 College Goal Sunday clinics.

Long-term, Enrollment Management is looking at which outreach efforts are most effective in reaching students and their families. "Of the many new efforts in recruitment, we want to find the 3 to 5 that are working and focus on those," said Dr. Montoya. In seeking this information, Enrollment Management is collaborating with Drs. Peach, Sautter, and Adkisson of the College of Business to study their marketing practices. Dr. Montoya emphasizes that NMSU has supported increased outreach efforts by Enrollment Management, and that support has paid off this year with the incoming class. This study will help NMSU understand what they can do to efficiently maintain that growth.

Profile: Angela Mora-Riley

As the Albuquerque Director of Enrollment Services, Angela Mora-Riley visits schools in New Mexico, northeast Arizona, and southern Colorado, emphasizing recruitment of American Indian students.



Ms. Mora-Riley knows first hand about barriers preventing some students from furthering their educations. Many rural and American Indian communities lack access to the Internet and information about colleges, including the application process. Ms. Mora-Riley remedies this lack of connectivity by providing these communities with information and services including paper applications.

At community gatherings Ms. Mora-Riley encourages families to help their children stay in school. Many families require additional guidance because of limited experience with higher education.

Ms. Mora-Riley believes NMSU is the best place for American Indian students. Strong academic programs and the availability of internships, co-op programs, and scholarships create a positive environment for American Indian students.

Ms. Mora-Riley has been at NMSU since January 1984. Raised in Ganado, Arizona, she is the second of nine children, all of whom are college graduates. Ms. Mora-Riley is of Navajo and Mexican descent.

Ms. Mora-Riley's husband, Allen Riley of Laguna, retired from NMSU after 26 years of service. He continues to help at the NMSU Albuquerque Center.

Angela can be contacted at amora@nmsu.edu.

News and Events

For national and international events, visit the *DE Clearinghouse Conference Database* [www.uwex.edu/disted/conf/]

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

For news for university faculty members and administrators, visit the *Chronicle on Higher Education* [www.chronicle.com]

For recent campus technology headlines visit *Syllabus* [www.syllabus.com]

About UpClose

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

DSS Resources for Students

DSS's QuickList of Student Services at NMSU (insert) has been updated for the 2007–2008 academic year. Students often ask faculty and staff for help in finding services at NMSU: this list should be a resource in directing students to the offices that can help them succeed at NMSU.

Most services fall into three categories: administration and enrollment services; physical, mental, and social services; and academic support. A few offices fall outside these categories, like Career Services in Garcia Annex, which can help students polish a resume and find internships. Campus activities can help students get involved with organizations and develop leadership skills.

In addition to being a resource for students, offices on the QuickList can clarify the role staff and faculty play for students needing assistance. Faculty often know when a student needs help, and many college students are just becoming consumers of services and learning how to advocate for themselves, according to Scott Moore, Dean of Students. Offices such as the Counseling Center and Student Judicial Services are invaluable in explaining to concerned faculty and staff how they can best help students use available services.

The Vice President's corner



This issue of UpClose features Enrollment Management, which includes the offices that deal with students long before they arrive at NMSU and are available to them after graduation through record requests. Every student who applies at NMSU has a file, and our extensive records are a treasure of our institutional and local history.

Dr. Bernadette Montoya leads NMSU's Enrollment Management, and she has a unique perspective on the NMSU system. She started her career with NMSU in Grants and came to Southern New Mexico to join the Doña Ana Community College administrative staff. By the time she moved to NMSU's main campus, she had a thorough understanding of higher education in

New Mexico. One of her priorities at Enrollment Management is to build transfer equivalency guides for NMSU's top 10 feeder colleges and ultimately for all colleges in the state.

Other articles in this issue reflect the needs of our students. Aggie Welcome Week began in 2005 with 550 students but now helps about 750 get to know their new home. The updated QuickList highlights other Division resources that are here to help students succeed at NMSU.

On a final note, this September marks the completion of my first year as Vice President for Student Success. Over the year I've learned student success is not the responsibility of a division: Student success is everybody's business. In the next year, we anticipate sharing what the Division has learned from internal studies and from visiting experts, and what we have already implemented. NMSU does a lot of things right, and we will keep working toward facilitating the success of every student.

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