

The Social Buzz

Alumni Edition

Edition Vol. 2

From the Director's Desk

Celebrating Milestones & Making Memories!

Dear Incredible Alumni Family,

Summer sunshine has arrived, and so have 75 brand-new social work professionals into our alumni community! Our recent MSW and BSW graduation ceremony wasn't just a conclusion—it was the beginning of new chapters for these passionate change-makers who now join **you** as esteemed colleagues and fellow alumni.

Elvis Has Entered the Building! Our May Alumni Happy Hour was nothing short of spectacular! Reagen Daugherty's (son of Kristi Daugherty, MSW Class of 2003) Elvis tribute performance had everyone all shook up in the best possible way. Seeing alumni from across different generations connecting, laughing, and sharing stories reminded us all why our social work community is so special. The room practically buzzed with energy as stories were exchanged and memories were made!



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Your Voice Shapes Our Future As we celebrate our golden 50th anniversary this year (can you believe it?!), we're not just looking back—we're boldly planning ahead for the next half-century of excellence. And we need YOU!

Mark your calendar: June 12th for an interactive Strategic Planning session where your insights will directly influence how we prepare the next generation of social work professionals. Your experience in the field is invaluable, and we're eager to hear your vision for the School's future.

Let's Throw an Unforgettable Party! Fifty years of transforming lives and communities deserves a celebration for the history books! We're assembling a planning committee for an epic anniversary bash, and your creative energy would be a perfect addition to our team. Interested in helping us plan this milestone celebration? Drop me a line at mnienow@nmsu.edu.



Here's to 50 extraordinary years behind us and countless more ahead!

Warmly,

Mary Nienow

Mary Nienow
Director, School of Social Work



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Check Out Our Strategic Plan!

We're thrilled to present our new Strategic Plan!

 Scan the QR code below to explore how we're shaping the future of our program!



After reviewing the strategic plan, join us for our alumni gathering to provide feedback, we'd love your input.

Your experiences, suggestions, and ideas are important to us as we continue building a stronger, more connected community.

Let's grow together—your voice makes a difference!



Listening Session



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.®
School of Social Work

strategic PLANNING

Thank you for reviewing our strategic plan!
Now, join us to share your valuable feedback!
RSVP below



June 12, 2025
6:00-7:00 PM MST
Picacho Hills Country Club
6861 Via Campestre
Las Cruces, NM 88007

[Click HERE to RSVP](#)



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Available now at *The Center Plaza*

ASWB Licensure Preparation Course



Registration Open!

HOW IT'S STRUCTURED:

- 100% Asynchronous
- Video Content Review
- Handouts Provided
- 150 Practice Test Questions

6 CEU's

To promote equity in licensure pass rates in NM, this free course is funded by a Department of Labor grant charged with serving diverse students and communities. This course is designed to support NM students and practitioners to thrive.



Contact the CESW Team: nmcesw.org

Register on Canvas Catalog: learn.nmcesw.org



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SOCIAL WORK SPOTLIGHT

In February, Professors Mary Nienow, Susie Facio, and Maribel Tellez along with TWENTY Social Work Students attended “Roundhouse” for the Student Advocacy & Action Day at the Legislature in Sante Fe.

The event was hosted by the Center for Excellence in Social Work at Highlands University and brings together social work students from across the state to advocate with legislators on policy issues important to social work.



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SOCIAL WORK SPOTLIGHT

Several faculty and students joined at the Las Cruces City Council meeting as Mayor Enriquez proclaimed March as Social Work Month. The proclamation was written by our own BSW student Andres Uribe who is an intern for Johana Bencomo, an NMSU SSW graduate, and city council member.



SOCIAL WORK SPOTLIGHT

"I had the incredible opportunity to attend and present at the BPD Conference in Las Vegas, where we presented on the importance of peer support mentoring in higher education. This experience was eye-opening, not only because I got to share our work, but also because I volunteered at the event and connected with inspiring social workers and students from many different places. I learned so much from other students' research. Attending this conference made me realize how privileged we are to have access to resources on our campus — and how much more we can push for to support underrepresented students. This experience fueled my passion for advocacy and reinforced my commitment to creating inclusive, supportive environments in my future social work career."

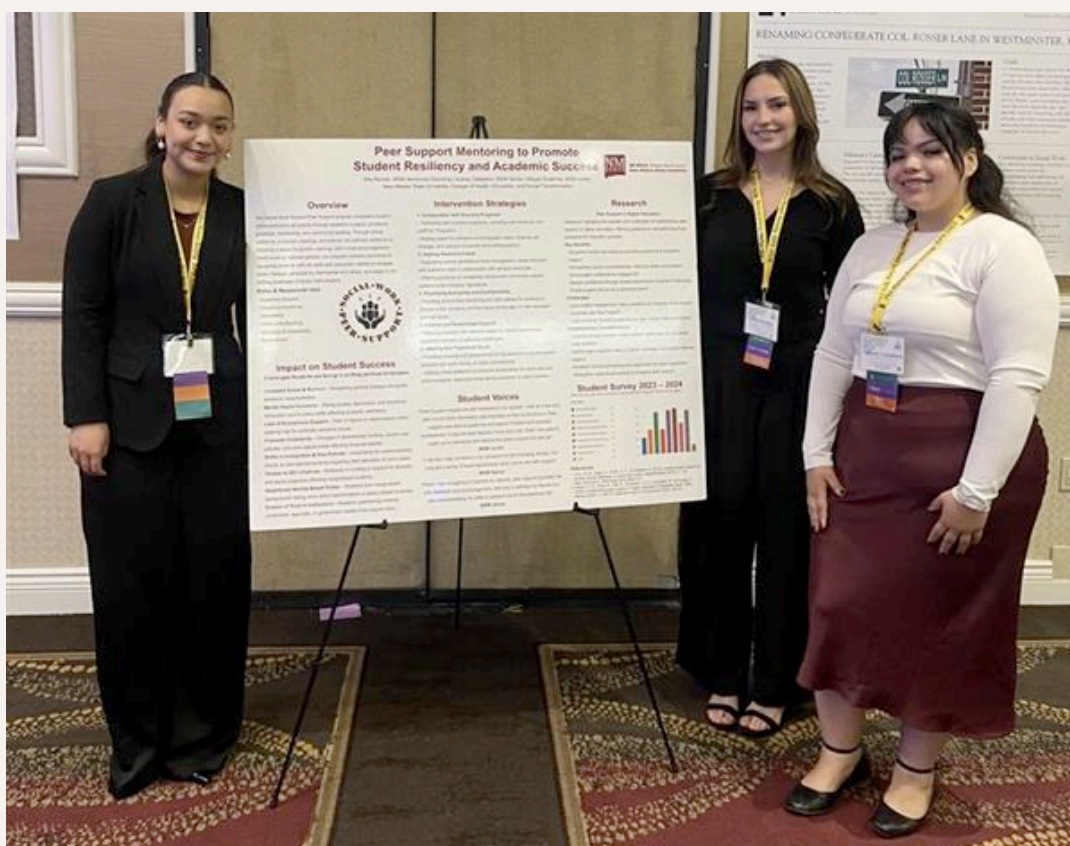
-Abigail Gutierrez- BSW Student

"It was incredible to get to sit in on presentations that were so applicable to my current goals as a Social Worker. I participated because I feel very strongly about the wide range of applications that Peer Support has to offer and being able to I go out and share it on such a large scale only helps in getting support where it is needed. I got the opportunity meet so many people from all over the world and all from a Social Work background which makes you feel very included."

-Mia Peralta, MSW Student

"I attended as part of the Social Work Peer Support Team and got to connect with diverse students from all over and learn about their unique experiences and projects."

-Aubrey Caballero- BSW Student



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SOCIAL WORK SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Mary Nienow had the pleasure of attending the HEST Scholarship award luncheon. SEVERAL of Social Work students, Aubrey Caballero, Sara Hipps, Samara Nunez, Graciela Olague, Lesle Esparza Villalpando joined her to be honored by the College and funders for all of their achievements.

In addition, the School of Social Work was able to award nearly \$200,000 in stipends for students completing their practicums! With an additional \$50,000 in scholarships to be awarded soon.



SOCIAL WORK SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Kimberly Knox, Dr. Stacy Gherardi and MSW/MPH Student Lindley Hornsby have 2 research articles accepted for publication, they are titled: School Social Workers Preparation for Special Education Practice: An Exploratory Study accepted to The International Journal of School Social Work, and Exploring State Differences in School Social Worker Preparation to Deliver Special Education Services to Children & Schools. Both articles discuss how school social workers are prepared to be Related Services School Social Workers, and explore state required licensure and preparation differences.



left to right, Dr. Stacy Gherardi, Lindley Hornsby, and Dr. Kimberly Knox



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Careers & Opportunities webpage dedicated to connecting you with meaningful job openings. From roles within NMSU to opportunities in the broader community, this page is designed to help you find positions that align with your passion and expertise. Visit the page to explore the latest listings and take the next step in your career!



Careers & Opportunities



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Support the Future of Social Work at NMSU

As an alumni of the NMSU School of Social Work, you've experienced the transformative power of education and service. Now, you have the opportunity to give back and help future social workers achieve their goals. Your support directly impacts students through scholarships, program development, and community outreach.

[Click Here](#) or scan the QR code below to make a difference today. Every gift, large or small, creates lasting change.



Thank you... 



Check Out How We Are Doing



Every year we measure how we are doing (remember those case studies or final exit project?!), check out our latest outcomes.

BSW assessment and the MSW First Year and Second Year Assessment

Contact Information




We'd love to hear from our alumni! Share your news, contribute articles, or post job openings for our Alumni edition of the Social Buzz. Stay up to date with all our latest happenings by visiting our website. We look forward to hearing from you and continuing to support each other's journeys!

School of Social Work Website

For submissions or inquiries, feel
free to contact us at:

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We'd love to hear from you and
feature your news in our next issue!



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