

The Social Buzz

School of Social Work

April 30- May 6, 2025

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

Our final week of regular classes in the semester! I hope you are hanging in there as you finish all the last-minute papers, presentations and projects. If it's any consolation, your stress will transfer over to the faculty as we try to read, watch and grade everything before the final deadline to submit grades on May 13.

As we come to the end of the semester, I have done some reflection on my first year as SSW Director at NMSU. The overwhelming feeling I come to is one of gratitude. Gratitude for the Las Cruces community which has welcomed me with open arms, invited me into their spaces and so open to partnerships and initiatives with our School of Social Work.

My gratitude comes from having a group of over 20 faculty who are smart, kind, student-centered and incredible social workers both personally and professionally. Leadership can be difficult, but having a positive, functioning and collaborative team has made it a joyful endeavor. My gratitude is also bolstered by our SSW administrative staff who keep me on track, worry about the details, and make me laugh on a daily basis.

Finally, the SSW students have blown me away. You are by far the most diverse, active, intelligent, and passionate group of students I have encountered. Your advocacy on behalf of our School, your classmates, social justice issues, and your own education is awe-inspiring. I wish I had better words than simply, thank you, but know my gratitude is deep and wide. Please continue to reach out so I can pay it forward as we continue our journey together.

*Grateful,
Thankful and Blessed*



Dr. Mary Nienow, Director





Social Work Students: Your Voice
Matters!

Listening Session

Share your experiences, ideas, and vision for the School of Social Work, openly or anonymously, in a **student-led space** via Zoom

The first 10 students to attend will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card!

Scan Here to Join:



Thursday on | **5:30 pm -**
May 1, 2025 | **6:30 pm**





Summer

COURSES

1

Ethics and Aging

SOWK 5996
M73 CRN: 30264
U73 CRN: 30265

SOWK 4996
M72 CRN: 30283
U72 CRN: 30282

Dr. Erika Gergerich

2

Family & Child Welfare Practice w/Special Populations

SOWK 5996
M72 CRN: 30254
U72 CRN: 30255

SOWK 4996
M71 CRN: 30252
U71 CRN: 30253

Monica Montoya

3

SW in and with Schools

SOWK 5996
M71 CRN: 29088
U71 CRN: 29240

Dr. Kimberly Knox

4

Leadership in Public Health Social Work

SOWK 5240
M70 CRN: 30256
U70 CRN: 30257





GRADUATION 2025 – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

For School of Social Work Students (BSW & MSW)


Are you ready to graduate but feeling a little confused? Don't worry — we've got you covered! 🎉


Here's everything you need to know about **Commencement** and the **School of Social Work Pinning & Hooding Ceremony** — yes, you can attend both!


NMSU Commencement (University-Wide)


Location: Pan American Center

Live Stream: Watch on [NMSU's YouTube](#)


 Graduate Ceremony (For MSW):

 Friday, May 9, 2025

 6:00 PM

 Undergraduate Ceremony (For BSW):


 Saturday, May 10, 2025


 9:00 AM


 [Logistics for NMSU Commencement](#)

School of Social Work Pinning & Hooding Ceremony


We'll Pin our BSW graduates and Hood our MSW graduates!

 Virtual (Global Campus students):


 Thursday, May 8, 2025


 6:00 PM

[Live Stream Link](#)

 In-Person:

 Saturday, May 10, 2025

 4:00 PM

 ASNMSU Center for the Arts

 [Logistics for Pinning & Hooding Ceremony](#)

✅ What You Need To Do:

✓ Apply for your degree

✓ Buy your Regalia (required for Commencement; optional for Pinning/Hooding)

✓ Order your diploma

🎉 You've worked hard—let's celebrate you the right way!
Got questions?

Reach out to Maribel Lopez mkeeper@nmsu.edu



The Social Buzz



socialwork.nmsu.edu 4



CONGRATS!

CLASS OF 2025



Let's Celebrate!

Meet up with your social work cohort
for drinks, food, and conversation

Bosque Brewing Co.

University Ave.

May 8th, 2025

5-7pm (ish)






🎓 Student Volunteers Needed Pinning & Hooding Ceremony 🎓

We're looking for 10–12 student volunteers to assist with our upcoming Pinning and Hooding Ceremony! This is a great opportunity to get involved, support your fellow graduates, and be part of a meaningful tradition.

Volunteer Duties May Include:

- Assisting with guest seating
- Guiding graduates through the ceremony process
- Distributing programs and pins
- General event support

 Date: May 10th

 Location: ASNMSU Center for the Arts

 Time Commitment: 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

If you're interested in helping out, please complete the short form below:

👉 [Sign Up HERE](#)

We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you!





Hey Social Work Students – Want to Make a Difference?

We're now accepting nominations for the 2025–2026 GSSWA Officer Team—and we'd love for YOU to get involved!

With everything happening in the world and in our field, strong student voices and leadership matter more than ever. This is more than just a leadership role—it's a chance to advocate for your peers, influence decisions, and help build a more inclusive, connected, and empowered student experience.

Whether you're on campus or online, this is your opportunity to be part of something that truly matters.

About GSSWA – Our Mission, Vision, and Purpose

GSSWA exists to support students throughout their time in the social work program. Our mission is to ensure that every student feels heard, empowered, and equipped to succeed both academically and personally.

We advocate for student needs at both the individual and system levels, foster meaningful connections between students and faculty, and strive to build a stronger, more inclusive community within the School of Social Work.

Serving as a GSSWA officer offers a chance to:

- Advocate for your peers
- Represent student interests
- Help shape the student experience
- Build leadership skills in a collaborative, supportive environment

Available Officer Positions

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- LAC Representatives (3 positions)
- Global Representatives (3 positions – Online Students Only)

How to Nominate

You can nominate yourself or another student by visiting this link: [GSSWA Officer Nominations 2025-2026](#)Links to an external site., **by April 25th**. Once nominations are in, we'll follow up with a brief election to finalize the officer team before the end of the semester.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about the roles available, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Avianna Amancio
2024-2025 GSSWA President





The McNair Scholars Program

(<https://honors.nmsu.edu/mcnair-scholars.html>) is currently looking for students to fill the program's opportunities.

This is an absolutely fantastic program. Specifically:

Located in the Conroy Honors College, the McNair Scholars Program is one of the federal TRIO programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Through premiere, personalized scholarly activities and services throughout their junior and senior years, our students receive support from our staff and faculty in preparing for, gaining entrance to, and completing doctoral (Ph.D.) programs. We encourage academically talented NMSU students interested in graduate studies and who are first-generation with financial needs, to apply.

To Apply:

Students wishing to apply to be a McNair Scholar will be asked to show: minimum 15 credit hours enrollment in a degree granting program; qualifying as low-income/first-generation.

Completed applications will include:

- Application form
- Personal statement addressing undergraduate academic experiences, graduate school plans, and research interests
- Name and contact information of two academic references (at least one from faculty) who can address the applicant's motivation, aptitude, and potential participation benefits.
- Current 3.0 GPA
- Documentation supporting low-income, first-generation.





Student Spotlight

We want to celebrate the incredible achievements and talents of our students! Whether it's for academic excellence, leadership, creativity, or any other noteworthy accomplishment, we'd love to hear about it. Students are welcome to self-nominate, or you can nominate a fellow student who deserves recognition. Please submit your nominations through the form below and help us spotlight the outstanding individuals in our community!





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!



Career Listings

Internal Opportunities (NMSU)

1. Please visit [NMSU's Career Website](#)
2. [Extension District/State Specialist/Behavioral Health, Cooperative Extension Service](#)
3. [Lead Academic Advisor, School of Social Work](#)

External Opportunities (Community)

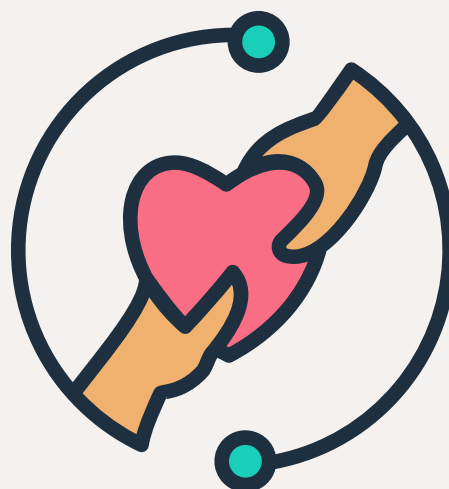
1. The State of NM, Office of the Governor
 1. [Department of Finance & Administration–Project Manager: Prevention and Emergency Response Initiatives](#)
 2. [Department of Finance & Administration–Project Manager: Youth and Family Initiatives](#)
 3. [Executive Director for New Mexico Chapter of NASW](#)
 4. [Eight \(8\) Northern Indian Pueblo Council Career Opportunities](#)
 5. [ENIPC, INC. Behavioral Health Services](#)
 1. Therapist
 2. Clinical Supervisors
 6. [Contract Social Worker: University of New Mexico of Law Clinic](#)
 7. [Program Coordinator, Southwest Behavioral & Health Services](#)

Careers & Opportunities



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Stay tuned for the latest updates, stories, and highlights from the School of Social Work!

In next week's edition, we'll bring you:

- Spotlights on Recent Achievements
- Upcoming Events and Workshops
- Student and Faculty Features
- Useful Resources and Tips

Got something to share or a question to ask?

Feel free to reach out to us:

✉ mkeeper@nmsu.edu

☎ Phone: 575-646-7599

🏢 Office: HSS 210F

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

