



# The Social Buzz



## School of Social Work

March 27- April 2, 2025

### MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

Dearest Students,

I hope you all had a chance to read President Ferme's message on Monday regarding the Young Park shooting. I want to reiterate his offer of support and hope that if this tragedy has impacted you, your friends, or your family, that you will take time to mourn and find ways to take care of yourself and those around you. Two excellent resources mentioned in President Ferme's message are virtual mental health counseling services through TimelyCare— you do not need insurance to access the services available. Counseling services are also offered through our Aggie Health and Wellness Center.

As I have shared many times, the SSW always stands ready to support our students, through recognition of their accomplishments or support when things are hard. I hope you will continue to reach out and let us know how you are doing.

Dr. Mary Nienow, Director





## Faculty Spotlight

# ≡ Welcome ≡

The School of Social Work is delighted to announce that Elizabeth “Liz” Bennett has joined our faculty as an endowed professor of social work. The endowed professor position is generously supported by the New Mexico True Initiative funded by the New Mexico State Legislature.

Liz, originally from Roswell, New Mexico, earned her dual master's degree in social work and public health at NMSU in 2018. Her diverse experience spans local, national, and international settings, including



youth development work with the United States Peace Corps and community initiatives in New York City's South Bronx.

Liz brings a wealth of expertise in promoting trauma-responsive and whole-person approaches to wellness. Her professional focus challenges systems that create barriers to accessing wellness resources, aligning perfectly with our school's mission to advance social justice and community well-being.

Most recently, Liz has served as a strategic partner with the NMSU Center of Innovation, where she helped plan and implement various programs including Youth Peer Support, Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, and the Nurtured Heart Approach. Her contributions have been instrumental in promoting values-based approaches to behavioral health throughout New Mexico.

When not advancing social work practice, Liz enjoys connecting with nature, building community relationships, and embracing both the beauty and complexity of life.

Please join us in welcoming Liz to our faculty. We look forward to the valuable perspectives and dedication she will bring to our students and community.





**BE BOLD. Shape the Future.\***  
Graduate School



## GRADUATE APPRECIATION WEEK



**Monday  
31st  
March**

**Awards Ceremony for Research & Creativity**  
O'Donnell Hall Room: 111, From 3 P.M. to 4 P.M.



**Tuesday  
April 1st**

**Honoring Excellence: Celebration of Teaching,  
Outreach, and Service(TA's & GA's)**  
O'Donnell Hall Room: 111, From 3 P.M. to 4 P.M.



**Wednesday  
April 2nd**

**Guiding with Brilliance: The Rise of a Leader(GSO  
Leaders & Graduate Student Leaders)**  
O'Donnell Hall Room: 111, From 3 P.M. to 4 P.M.



**Thursday  
April 3rd**

**Gradulicious: A Celebration of Graduate  
Students(Games & Giveaways to relax and enjoy)**  
Preciado Park near O'Donnell Hall From 5 P.M. to 7  
P.M.



**Friday  
April 4th**

**Virtual Gratitude Grams(Share Gratitude Notes  
& Picture anyone you appreciate  
#NMSUGRADitude)**  
From 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Online

**Participants will be Awarded with Certificates & Free Foods  
Available**





## MANDATORY ORIENTATION FOR PRACTICUM STUDENTS ELIGIBLE TO BE IN FALL/SPRING 2025-26 PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS

### Welcome Incoming SSW Practicum Students,

We are reaching out to invite you to attend a mandatory orientation for your upcoming practicum placement for Fall/Spring 2025-26. This orientation is a crucial step in ensuring that you are prepared for your practicum and able to move forward with the placement process.

During the orientation, we will cover important details, including:

- Instructions for purchasing Tevera, the platform used for practicum management
- The process to begin your practicum placement
- Information about your practicum coordinator

Please note that attendance is required in order to gain access to NMSU's full list of approved practicum agencies. Without attending an orientation session, you will not be able to proceed with securing your placement for Fall 2025.

If you are unable to attend the scheduled orientation, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss alternate arrangements. Failure to attend could delay or hinder your ability to obtain a practicum placement.

Please register for only one orientation, by clicking the zoom link below and according to BSW or MSW.

#### MSW

Friday 3/28/2025 1:30pm <https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/3dA6HWp0Tz6OYFHWcz89tw>

Tuesday 4/1/2025 6pm <https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/uD0oViWxRlexlgTWfrNm1g>

Friday 4/4/2025 12pm <https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tH1n97bNRvSCYXDk1oIEjg>

Tuesday 4/8/2025 6pm <https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/8oZZ2S3VTreeRe0Gxoh8SQ>

Friday 4/11/2025 12pm <https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/sC24VomVRCqCV86H8jyvhQ>

#### BSW

Friday 3/28/2025 2:30pm <https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/t0x5ZPtGQvGSjarZWx4FUw>

Friday 4/4/2025 1pm <https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZfWrej14T0m-ln1ykRd0gw>

Friday 4/8/2025 1pm <https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/qG2bhUflT7GypzAgxaxNvw>

We look forward to your participation in the orientation and are here to assist with any questions you may have.

#### Practicum Team

Maribel Tellez

Mallory Nunez

Susie Facio

Ted Nieto

Practicum Director

Practicum Coordinator

Practicum Coordinator

Practicum Coordinator

MSW Online Students

BSW Students

MSW Campus Students

[Tellezm@nmsu.edu](mailto:Tellezm@nmsu.edu)

[mdnunez@nmsu.edu](mailto:mdnunez@nmsu.edu)

[sfacio@nmsu.edu](mailto:sfacio@nmsu.edu)

[tnieto@nmsu.edu](mailto:tnieto@nmsu.edu)





FREE CULTURAL CEU sponsored by NMSU- School of Social Work Practicum Team on **Zoom on Friday, April 4 at 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm-MST. Please register here for the link:**

<https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/JB6GP1sBRIW4-xPTJhacNg>

**Transgender Cultural Fluency Training by the Transgender Resource Center of NM**  
<https://tgrcnm.org/>

"Transgender people today are more visible and represented throughout our communities than ever. As such, organizations and individuals are finding the need to increase their knowledge and understanding of issues that affect their transgender colleagues, employees, friends, and family members.

Despite gains in visibility and acceptance, transgender people continue to face enormous challenges in everyday life—from poverty, unemployment, lack of access to health care and secure housing, to horrific violence and discrimination.

Our Transgender Cultural Fluency Training lays the foundation for participants to gain a better understanding of what it means to be transgender, clarify common misconceptions about transgender people, become familiar with the challenges transgender communities face, and learn ways to be a strong and engaged advocate for transgender people.

TGRCNM

## TRANS CULTURAL FLUENCY

We offer exceptional training on transgender lives and issues for any class, workplace, or group that invites us. English and Spanish language training are offered.

**"I PERSONALLY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AGAINST TRANS PEOPLE. BUT HEARING MR. LAWYER SPEAK MADE ME UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE ALL HUMAN."**

-Training Participant

[To request a training email us at education@tgrcnm.org!](mailto:education@tgrcnm.org)

**Contact Us**  
 Mon. Wed. & Fri. 1 - 6 PM  
 (505) 200-9086

**More About Us**  
<https://tgrcnm.org/>





**ADRIEN LAWYER**  
 DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION  
 HE/HIM

**For any questions, please contact Susie Facio [sfacio@nmsu.edu](mailto:sfacio@nmsu.edu) School of Social Work Practicum Team**

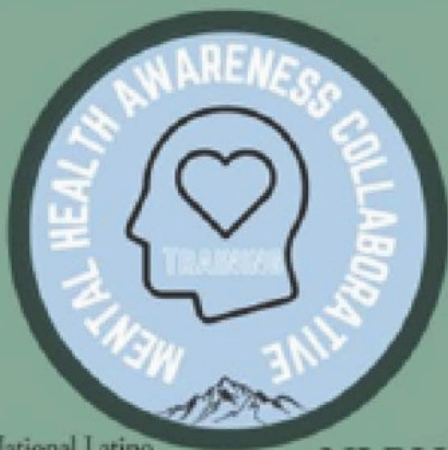




# Mental Health FIRST AID

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

MHFA brinda las habilidades que necesita para comunicarse y brindar ayuda y apoyo iniciales a alguien que puede estar desarrollando un problema de salud mental o uso de sustancias o que está experimentando una crisis.



National Latino Behavioral Health Association NLBHA



[Registro](#)  
[Aquí](#)

Capacitación virtual gratuita  
8 de Abril, 2025  
9:00 a.m.

## QUÉ CUBRE

- Signos y síntomas comunes de problemas de salud mental.
- Signos y síntomas comunes de los problemas de consumo de sustancias.
- Cómo interactuar con una persona en crisis.
- Cómo conectar a una persona con ayuda.
- Contenido ampliado sobre trauma, uso de sustancias y autocuidado.

Este proyecto está patrocinado por SAMSHA. Número de Adjudicación 6U79SP023012-05M001, Número de Identificación de Adjudicación Federal Único (FAIN) U79SP023012, Ley de Servicios de Salud Pública de la Autoridad Estatutaria, Título V, Sec 509,42 USC 290 bb'- 2, Número de Lista de Asistencia 93.243, Título del Programa de Listado de Asistencia Proyectos de Servicios de Salud Mental y Abuso de Sustancias de Importancia Regional y Nacional





# 2025 National Latino Behavioral Health Conference

*"¡Juntos Podemos!!"*  
From Awareness to Action-Bridging the Gaps in Latino Behavioral Health

August 7-9, 2025  
Albuquerque, NM

For Information, Visit:  
<https://nlbha.org>



National Latino Behavioral Health Association **NLBHA**

**Students interested in attending the conference and who may require funding are encouraged to contact Dr. Nienow at [mnienow@nmsu.edu](mailto:mnienow@nmsu.edu)**





## MULTICULTURAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

JESSICA JACKSON, PHD.

### BRIDGING THE GAP: AI, CULTURE, AND MENTAL HEALTH EQUITY

#### Learning Objectives

1. Examine the Role of AI in Culturally Responsive Care
2. Evaluate Ethical and Equity Considerations in Digital Mental Health Interventions (DMHIs).
3. Define the Role of Counseling Psychologists in AI Development and Implementation



### EVENT DETAILS

March 27, 2025 4:30 PM MST  
 Keynote Speaker, 5:30PM  
 O'Donnell Hall 111 and Zoom  
<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/89131403689>

#### 1 CE Credit Awarded

NMSU is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. NMSU maintains responsibility for this program and its content.



**BE BOLD.** Shape the Future.\*  
 College of Health, Education  
 and Social Transformation

#### Peer-Reviewed Article/Resource

1. Schueller, Stephen & Hunter, John & Figueroa, Caroline & Aguilera, Adrian. (2019). Use of Digital Mental Health for Marginalized and Underserved Populations. *Current Treatment Options in Psychiatry*. 6. 10.1007/s40501-019-00181-z.
2. Cerezo A, Cooper D, Palat V, Jolley A, Lord SP. Leveraging AI to Deliver Culturally Responsive Mental Health Care at Scale. *JMIR Preprints*. 31/01/2024:56965 DOI: 10.2196/preprints.56965 URL: <https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/56965>



575-646-2121



[cep@nmsu.edu](mailto:cep@nmsu.edu)



[cep.nmsu.edu](http://cep.nmsu.edu)



The Social Buzz



[socialwork.nmsu.edu](http://socialwork.nmsu.edu) 8





Want to learn innovative teaching strategies to improve student engagement?

# CALL FOR INSTRUCTOR APPLICATIONS

## 2025–2026 Academic Year

Mejorando las Aulas en STEM Program (MÁS Program)  
New Mexico State University

### Why join?

- ✓ Increase **student engagement** in your STEM courses
- ✓ Incorporate evidence-based strategies like **active learning**
- ✓ **Connect with a team** of supportive STEM instructors
- ✓ **Receive a \$3,000 stipend** while enhancing your teaching



#### Expectations of NMSU-MÁS Instructors

- ✓ Attend a Fall Kickoff Meeting
- ✓ Participate in four team meetings (Fall)
- ✓ Observe other STEM classes & discuss teaching strategies
- ✓ Develop & implement a new strategy in Spring
- ✓ Participate in two check-in meetings & two course observations with follow-ups
- ✓ Share your experiences in two all-MÁS meetings (Spring)



#### Benefits & Compensation

- ✓ **\$3,000 stipend** (distributed throughout the academic year)
- ✓ Gain valuable **professional development** experience
- ✓ Shape the future of STEM education at NMSU



Learn More:



<http://tinyurl.com/NMSU-MAS>



#### Apply Now!

Deadline:

**MARCH 31, 2025**

Apply below:

*Scan Me Today!*



<https://bit.ly/2025-2026MasInstructors>



H.S.I. Institutional Transformation Project NMSU-MÁS, Mejorando las Aulas en STEM/ Improving STEM Classrooms, is funded by the National Science Foundation Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Grant # 2246599. \*All acceptances are contingent on ongoing funding from the NSF.





# 2025-2026 Josie Torralba Romero Scholarship

**Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 30th, 2025, at 5 pm MST**

The Josie Torralba Romero (JTR) Scholarship Fund seeks to honor its namesake, who was the first President and one of the founders of the National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA). The mission of NLBHA is to influence national behavioral health policy, eliminate disparities in funding and access to services, and improve the quality of services and treatment outcomes for Latino populations.

Josie Torralba Romero, who passed away in 2004, had enormous dedication and love for the Latino community. Through her work as a social worker and advocate, she worked to help improve the country's mental health, social and child welfare systems for Latinos and other populations.

The JTR Scholarship Fund pays tribute to Josie's legacy of "growing our own" by providing academic scholarships to Latino students interested in pursuing a college/university degree in mental health related academic fields. This includes the following disciplines: social work, counseling, psychology, psychiatry, or substance abuse or mental health programs, leading to a bachelors, masters, or doctoral degree.

## Scholarship Guidelines and Application

# SEND SILENCE PACKING

Sponsored by:



An immersive experience that illustrates the stories and centers the voices of youth and young adults as they guide us through their mental health journeys to end the silence surrounding suicide.



**MONDAY, APRIL 7TH 9:00AM - 4:00PM**



**OUTSIDE CORBETT CENTER AND AGGIE LOUNGE  
(DEPENDENT ON WEATHER)**

Send Silence Packing promotes dialogue around suicide and mental health.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED!** Contact [gortega3@nmsu.edu](mailto:gortega3@nmsu.edu) or [merinos1@nmsu.edu](mailto:merinos1@nmsu.edu)

READ OTHER STORIES OR WRITE YOUR OWN JOURNEY WITH MENTAL HEALTH.





**The Mesilla Valley Film Society will screen “A Long Road to Tao” March 28 through April 3 at the historic Fountain Theatre in Mesilla. The opening night gala begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 28. Tickets are available for \$18 at the film society website: <https://mesillavalleyfilm.org/>**

New Mexico State University Creative Media Institute professor Sherwin Lau was the director of photography on the film. He teaches undergraduate courses in film production. Since 2006, Lau has worked on independent films, documentaries, commercials and music videos and has collaborated with filmmakers around the world.

“A Long Road to Tao” was partially shot in Las Cruces and Mesilla and employed students from NMSU’s Creative Media Institute. Film students also assisted casting director Jennifer Schwalenberg.

The week-long event will include special appearances on opening night by producer Michael Allen and director Alex Carig. Lau and many of the local cast members also will attend the opening night gala.

**Regular tickets for screenings of “A Long Road to Tao” from March 29 through April 3 cost \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. A special discounted showing at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 30, will be offered at \$6 for students with a valid I.D. "**



**[Click here for more details](#)**





## 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!





## Need Help with Academic Advising or Registration? We're Here to Support You!

Whether you're navigating program requirements, course scheduling, financial aid, transfer credits, or graduation, we've got you covered! [Fill out our support form](#) to get assistance!

### What can we help with?

- Academic Advising
- Program Requirements
- Registration & Enrollment
- Financial Aid
- Course Scheduling
- Transfer Credits
- Graduation Requirements
- and much more!



Thank you for submitting your inquiry! One of our team members will get back to you soon with the support you need. In the meantime, if you need immediate help, you can reach out to one of our key contacts:

- **Global Campus Advisor:** Megan Boyd - [mboyd@nmsu.edu](mailto:mboyd@nmsu.edu)
- **Main Campus Advisor:** Letty Gallegos - [lettyg@nmsu.edu](mailto:lettyg@nmsu.edu)
- **BSW Program Coordinator:** Professor Paulina Palomino Pantoja - [paulinam@nmsu.edu](mailto:paulinam@nmsu.edu)
- **MSW Program Coordinator:** Dr. Sterling Brown - [shbrown@nmsu.edu](mailto:shbrown@nmsu.edu)
- **Practicum Director:** Professor Mari Tellez - [tellezm@nmsu.edu](mailto:tellezm@nmsu.edu)
- 

We're here to help you succeed! Reach out anytime. 



## STAY CONNECTED

Exciting News for Our Social Work Community! We've launched a new 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!



CLICK HERE



## BUZZ IN NEXT WEEK

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!

