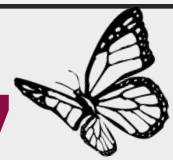




The Social Buzz



School of Social Work

December 10- December 12, 2025

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

Dear Social Work Students,

Congratulations – you've made it to the end of the semester! As you complete your final exams and wrap up your practicum hours, I would like to acknowledge the dedication, resilience, and compassion you've demonstrated throughout these past months. Your commitment to your education and to the social work profession is truly inspiring.



Please take time to rest and recharge during the upcoming break. The work you do – both as students and future practitioners – requires us to care for ourselves so we can best serve others. It is also required by our NASW Code of Ethics, which means neglecting to care for ourselves is an ethical violation!

The Social Buzz on Holiday Hiatus

This will be our last issue of The Social Buzz for the Fall 2025 semester. We'll return with fresh updates and announcements in January. In the meantime, stay connected with us through our website and social media channels for any important updates.

As you head into the holidays, I hope you find time for joy, connection, and renewal. Thank you for being part of our School of Social Work community. Your presence here makes a difference.

Wishing you a restful and restorative winter break!

Dr. Mary Nienow, Director





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FACULTY SCHOLAR CORNER

Exploring State Differences in School Social Worker

Preparation to Deliver Special Education Services



Check out this article published by Dr. Knox and Dr. Gherardi with the help of one of our former students Lindley Hornsby. This paper analyzes how different U.S. states prepare school social workers (SSWs) to act as “RSPs” in schools. It surveys and compares state-level differences in SSW training, credentialing, and role definitions, with the aim to show how variation in state policies and requirements may affect the ability of SSWs to function effectively as RSPs across different school systems.

Read more below:

READ MORE





Angel Tree Project



The Child Welfare Scholar Program at NMSU's School of Social Work is partnering with the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) to make the holidays bright for local children in Child Protective Services care.

How You Can Help

Choose a *physical tag* from our tree (HSS 210), or
Request a *virtual tag* by scanning the QR code:



CLICK HERE!

Gifts should be **wrapped & returned with tag** to the School of Social Work front office (**HSS Building, Suite 210**) by **Thursday, Dec.18th.**

****Gifts must be age appropriate and nonviolent. Don't forget to leave your contact info before you take your tag!***

Questions? Contact Erica Tontodonati at ericatenmsu.edu, or
Caroline Klocksien at cklocksie@mmsu.edu





SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

TO ALL EL PASO AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS, SCHOOL COUNSELORS, AND INTERESTED CANDIDATES: The El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation, in keeping with its tradition of serving the community, offers a scholarship program: a fund for El Paso region students seeking consideration, whether applying for new admission or currently enrolled in an accredited program. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

Please distribute this letter along with the enclosed scholarship application to all interested students and school counselors. The application may be reproduced as necessary. Students must complete the attached application and include a copy of the high school transcript, complete FAFSA report, and ACT or SAT score. Applications are evaluated on the information supplied; therefore, all questions must be answered

Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. The deadline for submitting the application is March 13, 2026. Applicants to the EPHCC Education Foundation Scholarship Fund must meet the following criteria.

- Ø Be a student who will earn a high school diploma no earlier than May 2026; and
- Ø Enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two- or four-year college or university in the fall of 2026.
- Ø Or be currently enrolled to an accredited program, in good standing.
- Ø GPA must be 3.0 and above to qualify.
- Ø **Total family income less than \$50,000.00.**

Scholarship recipients are selected on a number of criteria, including academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in community activities, honors, and work experience, a statement of educational and career goals. Financial need as calculated by EPHCC Education Foundation must be demonstrated for the student to receive an award.

The Scholarship Committee of the EPHCC Education Foundation makes the selection of scholarship recipients. All recipients will be notified by May 1, 2026.

Acceptance of the scholarship constitutes permission for EPHCC Education Foundation to use recipients' names, biographical information, pictures for publicity purposes, and **agreement to attend a scholarship award ceremony** at the Foundations expense, if such a ceremony is held.

EPHCC Education Foundation reserves the right to interpret and review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time including termination of the program.

Questions regarding the scholarship program should be addressed to:

EPHCC Education Foundation
Scholarship Committee

[ACCESS APPLICATION HERE](#)





Behavioral Health Meet

Up

January 9th, 2026



Are you a behavioral
health student in
Gallup or the
surrounding area?
Let's meet up and
chat over coffee or
tea!

Open to all social work and behavioral health students.
Undergraduate, graduate students, and those thinking
about becoming a student are welcome

North Side Starbucks

9-10am

Questions?

Email Caleigh at cljones5@nmsu.edu





SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Apply to be a 2026 BPD BSW Student Fellow!

Serving as a *fellow* is an academic honor that provides support, training, and leadership opportunities for a selected group of outstanding participants. This year BPD will launch its second cohort of BSW Student Fellows for the 2026 academic year. Student fellows will collaborate with leaders from the Student Fellows Committee in engaging with the Committee's invited session, supporting the student conference, and supporting new student attendees. Serving in this role provides several benefits, including a travel stipend, free conference registration, free networking dinner, and leadership development opportunities. The following sections provide further details about how this opportunity benefits students, what responsibilities are required of fellows, and how you can apply for this outstanding opportunity!

How will this benefit you?

- You will receive a \$500 stipend to support your travel to the 2026 BPD conference.
- You will receive complimentary registration for the conference.
- You will provide leadership to the development and implementation of the 2026 BPD student conference.
- You will be invited to participate in the special session hosted by the Student Fellows Committee to support students in navigating the conference.
- You will have the opportunity to network with faculty members and student fellows over a free dinner at the BPD conference.
- You can include this nationally recognized honor on your resume or CV.

What will be required of you?

- You must attend the 2026 BPD conference and be available to participate in all relevant presentations and activities for the Student Fellows and Student Conference.
- You must participate in 2 pre-conference virtual planning sessions with the Chair(s) of the Student Fellows Committee and other BPD Student Fellows, and one post-conference debrief meeting. The debrief meeting will be scheduled later, but in applying students are committing to attending the following pre-conference virtual meetings.
 - January 30th 12:30-2 MST
 - February 20th 12:30-2 MST
- You will contribute leadership to relevant programming at the BPD conference, which may include additional presentation opportunities, development of communication materials, student introductions, or other duties as is fitting for programmatic needs and relevant student skills.
- You will serve as an ambassador to support BSW students attending the BPD conference.





SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

How can I apply?

Please submit the following materials to Ann Obermann aoberma1@msudenver.edu.

Applications are due **Monday January 19th 2026!**

- A cover page that includes: Name, email address, phone number, University/College name, name and contact information for faculty advisor.
- Confirm that you are able to meet the requirements of this fellowship.
- 2-3 page personal statement that describes:
 - Tell us about your status in your social work program. (e.g., sophomore? Senior? Currently doing an internship? Area of focus, if any? When do you plan to graduate? What do you plan to do after you complete your degree?)
 - Why are you interested in this role?
 - What (if any) previous experience with BPD or other professional conferences do you have? How would this, or other relevant experience, inform your work in this role?
 - What skills and interests would you bring to this role?
 - How will you work with members of a team in this role?
- Current resume or CV

For further information about the BPD Student Fellows, please feel free to contact BPD 2026 Student Conference and Student Fellows Chairs Dr. K Scherrer (ksherrer3@msudenver.edu) or Dr. Ann Obermann LCSW (aoberma1@msudenver.edu)

We are grateful to the Department of Social Work and Metropolitan State University of Denver for their sponsorship of the 2026 cohort of BSW student leaders!





NEW COURSE ADDITION

WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN WE START
PAYING MORE
ATTENTION TO
WHAT'S GOOD?

CEPY 4997 (CRN:50548)
psychology of flourishing

SPRING 2026: TUESDAYS 1:30-4PM

What does it mean to truly flourish, to live a good and meaningful life, even when life is hard? Using a positive psychology lens, this elective course seeks to answer the question of how to thrive and live well. This course will leave you with roots with which to anchor a good life - for yourself and for those whom you seek to serve in the helping professions.



Questions?
Sophia Daley
sophiad
@nmsu.edu





GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK!



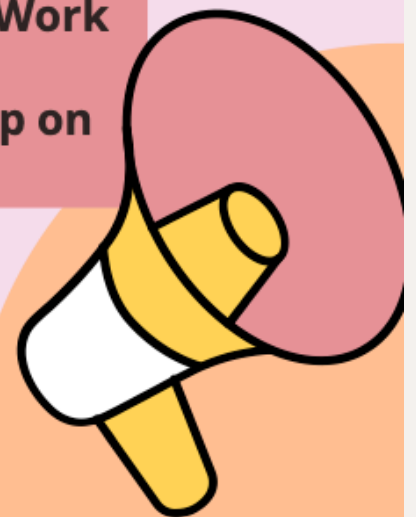
WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED?

We understand that big listening sessions haven't felt realistic or motivating for many, so we're switching it up!

This is an opportunity to **ANONYMOUSLY** share your experiences, ideas, and concerns to help build a stronger, more inclusive School of Social Work

Your voice matters, and we're not giving up on showing up for you!

Insert your anonymous
comment here:





OPEN REGISTRATION SPRING 2026

College of HEST

REGISTRATION FOR SPRING 2026 NOW OPEN!

College of HEST students, it is now that time of year to prepare your schedule for the upcoming Spring 2026 semester. Registering early provides the opportunity to select courses you need at the time that works with your schedule. Please make sure to meet with you advisors to verify your classes!

Before registering, please meet with your Advisors. Your NMSU account must be under \$600.00 before you will be able to register.

REGISTER NOW!

my.nmsu.edu

Please feel free to reach out to HEST if you have any questions or concerns.

- Dr. Margo M. Trevino-Torres
mtrevino@nmsu.edu
(575) 646-3404
- Ashlee Ayers
aaayers@nmsu.edu
(575) 646-3909



PREPARE FOR REGISTRATION

- ☒ Registration now open
- ☐ Meet with Financial Aid Advisor
- ☐ Meet with Advisor
- ☐ Clear any registration holds
- ☐ Register for classes

STUDENT RESOURCES

- ☒ Academic Advising
<https://advising.nmsu.edu/>
- ☒ Financial Aid and Scholarship Services
<https://fa.nmsu.edu/>

NEED MORE INFO?

AGGIE ONE STOP

- (575) 646-NMSU
(575-646-6678)
- onestop@nmsu.edu





NMSU ANNOUNCEMENT

SPRING SEMESTER GRADUATE ASSISSTANTSHIP AWARD

The Graduate School is pleased to share the 2026 Spring Semester Graduate Assistantship Award announcement for new and continuing graduate students.

The 2026 Spring Semester Graduate Assistantship Award is granted through a competitive basis. This award is for one academic semester (Spring 2026 semester) only! Nominees must be a current graduate student in good academic standing (GPA of at least 3.0 and not on Academic Probation) or admitted as a regular student to a graduate program prior to being nominated for this award.

Nominees must be hired as a Graduate Teaching Assistant or Graduate Research Assistant and not as Graduate Assistant-Other.

Students who are admitted to only Graduate Certificate programs are not eligible to be considered for this award.

The deadline is Friday, January 16, 2026, 5.00 pm.

Faculty must submit the nomination Form available at [2026 Spring Semester Graduate Assistantship Award](#) including the required information:

1. A written statement of about two paragraphs demonstrating how the nominee will be engaged in the teaching and/or research or creative scholarship mission of NMSU.
2. A retention plan that outlines specific strategies that will support the student's success in the graduate program if the nominee is not graduating in Spring or Summer of 2026.

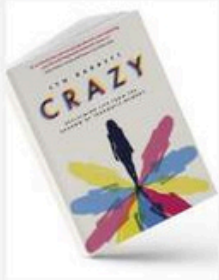




COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Let's Talk About Dissociation

A Conversation & Book Signing
with Lyn Barrett

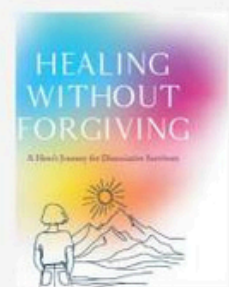


Sunday, January 18 at 2:00 pm

What is dissociation? How does it protect the child who is experiencing chronic childhood trauma? What impact does it have on the adult who was chronically abused as a child? Is there a path for healing and, if so, what is it?

With a diagnosis of dissociative identity disorder, Lyn has lived experience. She's a retired teacher, school principal, and pastor, and the founder of Dissociative Writers, a nonprofit serving people internationally.

- Conversation about Dissociation
- Brief readings from Lyn's two books:
Crazy: Reclaiming Life from the Shadow of Traumatic Memory and
Healing Without Forgiving: A Hero's Journey for Dissociative Survivors
- Questions & Answers
- Book Signing
- For more information, contact Lyn at lyn@lynbarrett.com or www.lynbarrett.com.



Peace Lutheran Church

1701 Missouri Ave
Las Cruces



The Social Buzz



socialwork.nmsu.edu 13





COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT



**CENTER FOR
EXCELLENCE**
IN SOCIAL WORK

Student Advocacy & Action (SANA)
Networking • Training • Day at the Legislature



Social Work Student Advocacy & Action (SANA) • Legislative 101 & Day at the Legislature ■ Legislative 101 • Wed. January 28, 2026 from 10 am–11:30 am [Virtual] ■ Pre-event SANA Social Time • Thurs. February 5, 2026 from 6 pm–8 pm ■ Student Advocacy & Action Day at the Legislature • Fri. February 6, 2026 from 8:30 am to 2 pm

During the 2026 regular session, social work students across New Mexico will come together to participate in Student Advocacy & Action Day at the Legislature. This is an opportunity to meet and network with other social work students, visit the NM State Capitol Building in Santa Fe and see the legislative session in action. A guided tour at the Roundhouse will be available. Additionally, students can visit legislative offices, attend committee meetings, or explore the Capitol Building independently.



Sign-up for SANA Day:
bit.ly/SANA2026



Attend the [Pre-event] SANA Social Time (on 2/5/2026) and stay overnight at the Sage Hotel. There are a limited number of rooms that will be provided for students ~~at no cost~~. Indicate your interest on the SANA Day ~~registration~~ form.



SANA Day at the Legislature (2/6/2026) is the same day as:
NM Indian Affairs Department's **American Indian Day**
NM Speech & Hearing Assoc.'s **NM Speech & Hearing Day**
NM Wilderness Alliance's **Public Lands Day**



Questions? Learn about the NMHU FVSSW Center for Excellence in Social Work at nmcesw.org. Contact us at ceswnm@nmhu.edu. Call us at 505-429-1340.



The Social Buzz



socialwork.nmsu.edu 14





COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT



CENTER FOR
EXCELLENCE
IN SOCIAL WORK

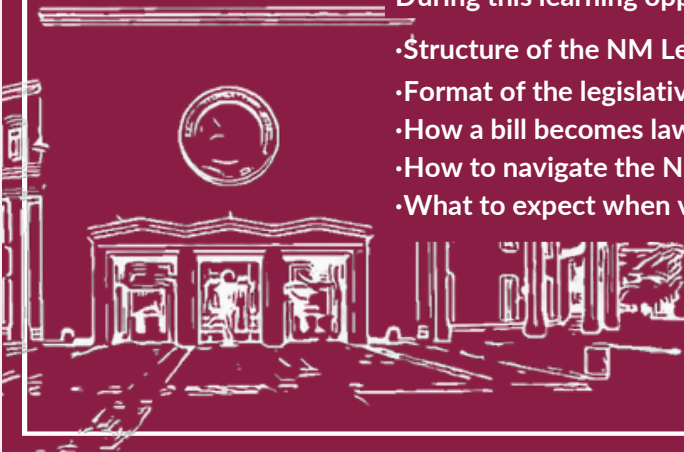
Student Advocacy & Action (SANA)
Networking • Training • Day at the Legislature



LEGISLATIVE 101 • WED. JANUARY 28, 2026 FROM 10 AM–11:30 AM [VIRTUAL]

Get ready for Social Work Student Advocacy & Action (SANA) Day at the Legislature by attending Legislative 101. During this learning opportunity discussion will include:

- Structure of the NM Legislature
- Format of the legislative session
- How a bill becomes law
- How to navigate the NM Legislature's website
- What to expect when visiting the Roundhouse



Sign-up for Legislative 101
bit.ly/SANA2026

**New Mexico Macro
Social Work Student
Network (NM MSWSN)**
Meetings are held via Zoom.
To register and attend a
meeting enroll in
[Student Advocacy & Action
\(SANA\) Training + Day at the
Legislature](#)



**NM MSWSN Chapter Meetings -
Receive Meeting Updates - bit.ly/NMMSWSN**
Spring dates • Thursdays from 10 am–11 am •
1/29/26 & 2/12/26 & 3/19/26 & 4/9/26



Questions? Learn about the NMHU
FVSSW Center for Excellence in
Social Work at nmcesw.org.
Contact us at ceswnm@nmhu.edu.
Call us at 505-429-1340.

What we'll be discussing: interested in learning about the NM state legislative process, have a policy issue for which you'd like to advocate, want to connect with other social work students, want to support policy change for social work students, professionals and the clients and communities they serve? Then join an upcoming NM MSWSN meeting!



The Social Buzz



socialwork.nmsu.edu 15





COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

SOS

Survivors of Suicide

A Support Group



Free 8 week support group starting in January

Join us for this free, peer-led support group for anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide.

It doesn't matter if it was a spouse, relative, child, sibling, family, or friend. It doesn't matter how long ago.

Please be with us.

Participants are then able to join a monthly drop in group or facilitate meetings in the future.



Registration is required
Contact SOSGroupLC@gmail.com
(575) 249-5375

LCSUICIDEPREVENTION.com





SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Voices in Action is the DSJ Committee's ongoing space for connection, creativity, and community. Here, we celebrate the diverse experiences and ideas that shape our collective journey toward social justice. Whether you're a student, faculty member, or staff, this is your space to reflect, express, and inspire.

Voices in Action A DSJ Committee Column

Joy Harjo, an internationally renowned poet, performer, and writer of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, served as the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States from 2019 – 2022. She's a UNM alum. Learn about Joy and her works here: [Joy Harjo](#)



Share Your Story: We're calling on all creative minds to contribute. Students, your voices are especially vital. Share your practicum insights, reflections on challenging cases, or explore social issues you're passionate about. Faculty and staff, share your research findings or teaching reflections. Your perspectives on social justice are invaluable. Submit your piece through our easy-to-use form and become a part of our creative tapestry.



Click Here

CLICK HERE



Curate Our Reading List: Book lovers, unite! Our monthly reading list offers stories and ideas that challenge, inspire, and connect us. We want to know what books, short stories, and essays have influenced your practice or expanded your worldview on social justice. Share your favorites and discover new reads every first Wednesday of the month.

STUDENTS! We want YOU to Lead the Conversation

We're inviting students to lead short presentations for faculty and staff, offering insight from their lived experiences and the knowledge rooted in their identities and communities. Whether through your cultural background, LGBTQ+ identity, disability experience, first-generation journey, or another underrepresented perspective—your expertise can help shape how we teach, communicate, and connect.



**CLICK
HERE**



Scan to access our
monthly reading
recommendations

 **THE DSJ COLUMN**

NOVEMBER 2025





SW FACULTY RECOGNITION

Welcome back students! Last Spring we launched a **Faculty Recognition program**. We are excited to continue recognizing faculty this year. If there is an instructor/advisor/administrator who has helped you during your time at NMSU, consider nominating them for this honor. Please scan the QR code or click link below to vote!

CLICK HERE

Outstanding Faculty Recognition Form





How SW Student Peer Support can Help!



Emotional Support

With the most current events and changes, we are here to listen to your concerns, provide a safe space for all thoughts and feelings, and offer coping strategies. You are not alone, and we are in this together!



Academic Support

We are students too, and we want to share our knowledge and tips to help you all succeed as you navigate the Social Work Program and develop the skills and confidence throughout your journey



Professional Development

We can help you with all inquiries regarding resume building, filling out applications, interview preparation, career planning, skill development, and networking opportunities



Community Building

We strive to create an inclusive and welcoming environment where students can build meaningful connections with their peers through social events, meet & greets, and collaborative learning experiences



Scan here to make an appointment with us:

We hope to connect with you!





OFFICE HOURS

Monday
5 PM - 7 PM

Tuesday
7 AM - 9 AM / 5 PM - 8 PM

Wednesday
7 AM - 9 AM

Thursday
7 AM - 9 AM / 5 PM - 8 PM

Friday
7 AM - 9 AM / 1 PM - 7 PM

Can't meet at these times? Schedule
an appointment using our QR code!

Office Location:

HSS Building, 2nd floor, room 201

Zoom Link:

[https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/831912592
21#success](https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/83191259221#success)



nmsu_socialworkpeersupport





SW CAREERS AND 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



CONNECT WITH US

School of Social Work Website



Facebook



Instagram



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:

✉ socwork@nmsu.edu

☎ Phone: 575-646-2143

🏢 Office: HSS 210

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

