



The Social Buzz

School of Social Work

December 10- December 12, 2025

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

Welcome back! I hope you've had a restful and rejuvenating winter break, and I'm excited to see you all as we begin this new spring semester.

This semester brings an exciting opportunity I want to highlight: the **UConn Campaign School, taking place February 27-28, 2026** in Hartford, Connecticut. This is a remarkable chance to develop skills in political engagement, advocacy, and campaign strategy—the very tools you'll need to create systemic change in your communities.

Whether you're interested in learning about electoral campaigns, fundraising, coalition building, or voter engagement, the Campaign School offers hands-on learning with experienced political and social work professionals. It's a unique opportunity to practice the policy advocacy work that is central to our profession.

Here's the best part: The School of Social Work is committed to supporting your participation. We'll cover your registration and flight costs. You'll only need to cover hotel, meals, and local transportation.

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 31. Don't miss this deadline—this investment in your advocacy skills is an investment in your future and in the communities you'll serve.

As you navigate this semester, remember that advocacy is not just something we study—it's something we do. I encourage you to engage with opportunities like this one. Your voice, your passion, and your commitment to social justice matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Nienow".

Dr. Mary Nienow, Director

Wishing you all a meaningful and empowering spring semester.



The Social Buzz



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ANGEL TREE THANK YOU MESSAGE



Thank You

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to every individual, organization, and community partner who supported this year's Angel Tree Project. Your generosity, compassion, and willingness to step in ensured that children in protective services felt seen, valued, and cared for during the holiday season. This project is only possible because of the incredible community that surrounds it. Whether you picked up a tag, purchased gifts, shared our posts, volunteered your time, or helped spread the word, your support made a lasting impact. Because of you, hundreds of children received not only gifts, but also a powerful reminder that they are not alone.

Each year, this project serves nearly 200 children, and witnessing our community come together with such kindness and purpose is deeply moving. Your actions reflect the true spirit of the season. One rooted in empathy, generosity, and hope.

Thank you for helping us make this year's Angel Tree Project a success. We are deeply grateful for your support and the love you have shown to the children we serve.





SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

UCONN

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

NANCY A. HUMPHREYS
INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL
SOCIAL WORK



FEBRUARY 27 & 28, 2026
FRIDAY:
9 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.
SATURDAY:
9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

UCONN SCHOOL OF LAW
55 ELIZABETH STREET
HARTFORD, CT

COSTS:

\$25 for UConn SSW students
\$50 for other UConn students
\$99 for all other students
\$225 for all others
(includes up to 12 CEs!)

Schools who wish to register
students can email us at
ssw.ce.uconn.edu.

Scan the QR code for more
information:



• Supporting BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and
other marginalized groups
• FUNDRAISING • Voter Engagement
• Communications and Outreach
• Political Perspective and Knowledge
• Engaging BIPOC, LGBTQ+ & Diverse
Perspectives
• Voter Engagement • Political STRATEGY •
• Communications and Outreach •

Politics is social work
with power. Senator Barbara Mikulski

CONSIDER YOURSELF ASKED

The Campaign School for Social Workers is for anyone who wants to amplify their ability to create positive change in their community. Learn to:

- Volunteer, advocate, and run for office
- Gain valuable leadership skills for any practice setting
- Engage in candid conversations with political social workers, elected officials, and national experts
- Determine your first steps toward political and community engagement

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Inner workings of electoral campaigns
- Raising money and building political power
- Starting with your community
- Building networks and coalitions
- Navigating power, ethical conflicts, and difference
- Supporting diverse representation
- Messaging that mobilize

No experience needed!

Now in our
30th year!

REGISTER TODAY!
<https://tinyurl.com/2026CampaignSchool>



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FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UCONN CAMPAIGN SCHOOL

Need financial support to attend this event?



SSW will cover the cost of registration and flight. Students will be responsible for hotels, per diem and local transportation costs.

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 31.

Fill out the Application below!!

REGISTER NOW





Child Welfare Scholar Program
School of Social Work
BE BOLD. Shape the Future.[®]
New Mexico State University

WIN A TRIP TO
ATTEND A CHILD
WELFARE
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK CHILD WELFARE SCHOLAR PROGRAM

INFORMATION SESSION



JANUARY 23, 2026
12:00 PM- 1:00 PM



HSS BUILDING
SUITE 232



MEETING ID:
868 8218 0657



FREE PIZZA
&
SWAG BAGS

MORE INFORMATION

Erica Tontodonati
ericat@nmsu.edu



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LICENSURE EXAM PREP SEMINAR



Child Welfare Scholar Program
School of Social Work
BE BOLD. Shape the Future.[®]
New Mexico State University

2-DAY LICENSURE EXAM PREPARATION SEMINAR

Facilitators will help participants understand the exam dynamics and demonstrate how to effectively use strategies for selecting and using the information provided within each exam item to choose the most appropriate choice to increase their success with the exam.

1/23/26 & 1/24/26
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Dissemination 2/14/26
\$50 Students
\$75 Non-Students

REGISTER TODAY
LINK IN BIO



ericat@nmsu.edu



1-575-646-5711

Scholars attend free of charge, first come first serve to all non-scholars.

Scholarships available for participants facing financial hardship.



https://socialwork.nmsu.edu/research-and-outreach/licensing_preparation_program.html



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Research & Action with the P4P Advocacy Alliance

Your License, Your Future: What Every Social Work Student Needs to Know About the ASWB Exam Reform & Alternative Pathways



Tues, Jan 27, 2026



7:00pm ET



Movements like **Payment for Placements (P4P)** and the **#StopASWB** Campaign are working to dismantle systemic barriers and ensure equitable entry into the social work profession and practice. Join P4P for this month's *Research & Advocacy Spotlight* featuring guest speakers **Dr. Matthew DeCarlo**, **Dr. Mary Nienow**, and **Will Doyle, LICSW**, who will discuss the release of the 2022 ASWB Exam Pass Rate Analysis that revealed significant disparities amongst test takers.

REGISTER NOW



Zoom Registration:
bit.ly/p4p-advocacy-mtg-jan2026



PAYMENT FOR PLACEMENTS
ADVOCACY ALLIANCE



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RESEARCH STUDY

SOCIAL WORK STUDENT EXPERIENCES NAVIGATING ADEI VALUES IN PRACTICUM

Principal Investigator- Emma Fuhrman, MSW, LICSW
Co-Principal Investigators- Carolyn Mueller, DSW, LICSW
Mary Nienow, PhD
Hannah Ose, MSW student

PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH

This study is to help social work educators understand how social work practicum students navigate ADEI value conflicts at their practicum agencies. We hope to learn how practicum agencies do or do not act on ADEI values, and support ADEI initiatives, in addition to how social work students are prepared to address ADEI conflicts with their practicum site.

WHERE IS THE STUDY?

The survey is online and will take about 30 minutes to complete.

WHERE IS THE STUDY?

- Participants must be at least 18 years old.
- Participation is completely voluntary and anonymous.
- You may decide to stop participating or withdraw from the study at any time.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY, GO TO OUR QUALTRICS SURVEY:

[HTTPS://WINONA.AZ1.QUALTRICS.COM/JFE/FORM/SV_7VASZ1TCCDYO_HZE](https://winona.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7VASZ1TCCDYO_HZE)

Your participation will be of great importance to build knowledge about how social work students' experiences navigating ADEI values in practicum. For more information, contact **Emma Fuhrman** at emma.fuhrman@winona.edu





INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BSW/MSW INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE SURVEY

Dear BSW/MSW Student,

You are invited to take part in a brief research study about social work practicum experiences at New Mexico State University. The purpose of this study is to understand how payment status (paid, stipend, or unpaid) may influence student learning, supervision quality, and work-life balance during field placement.

Participation involves completing an anonymous online survey that takes about 10–15 minutes. Your responses are confidential—no names, student IDs, or identifying information are collected. Participation is voluntary, and your decision to take part or not will have no effect on your grades, field evaluation, or standing in the BSW / MSW programs.

To participate, please click the link below:

https://chsnmsu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_byzaT6tVGbNxTgQ

You may skip any question or exit the survey at any time. A list of student support resources is provided in the consent form before you begin.

If you have questions about the study, please contact Dr. Iván de la Rosa at lilo@nmsu.edu. For questions about your rights as a research participant, contact the office of Research Integrity and Compliance at New Mexico State University: 575-646-7177, or ric_admin@nmsu.edu.NMSU.

Thank you for considering participation in this important project to help strengthen and improve MSW field education.

Warm regards,
Dr. Iván de la Rosa
Principal Investigator
School of Social Work, New Mexico State University





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





Save the Date

Practicum & Employment Fair

March 27, 2026

8:30am- 12:00pm

Corbett Center Ballrooms



Workforce Panel for Students

Event following Practicum and Employment Fair

Hardman Room 210

1:00 – 4:00pm

In person and Zoom

Zoom [Link: https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/83637747645](https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/83637747645)

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New Mexico State University



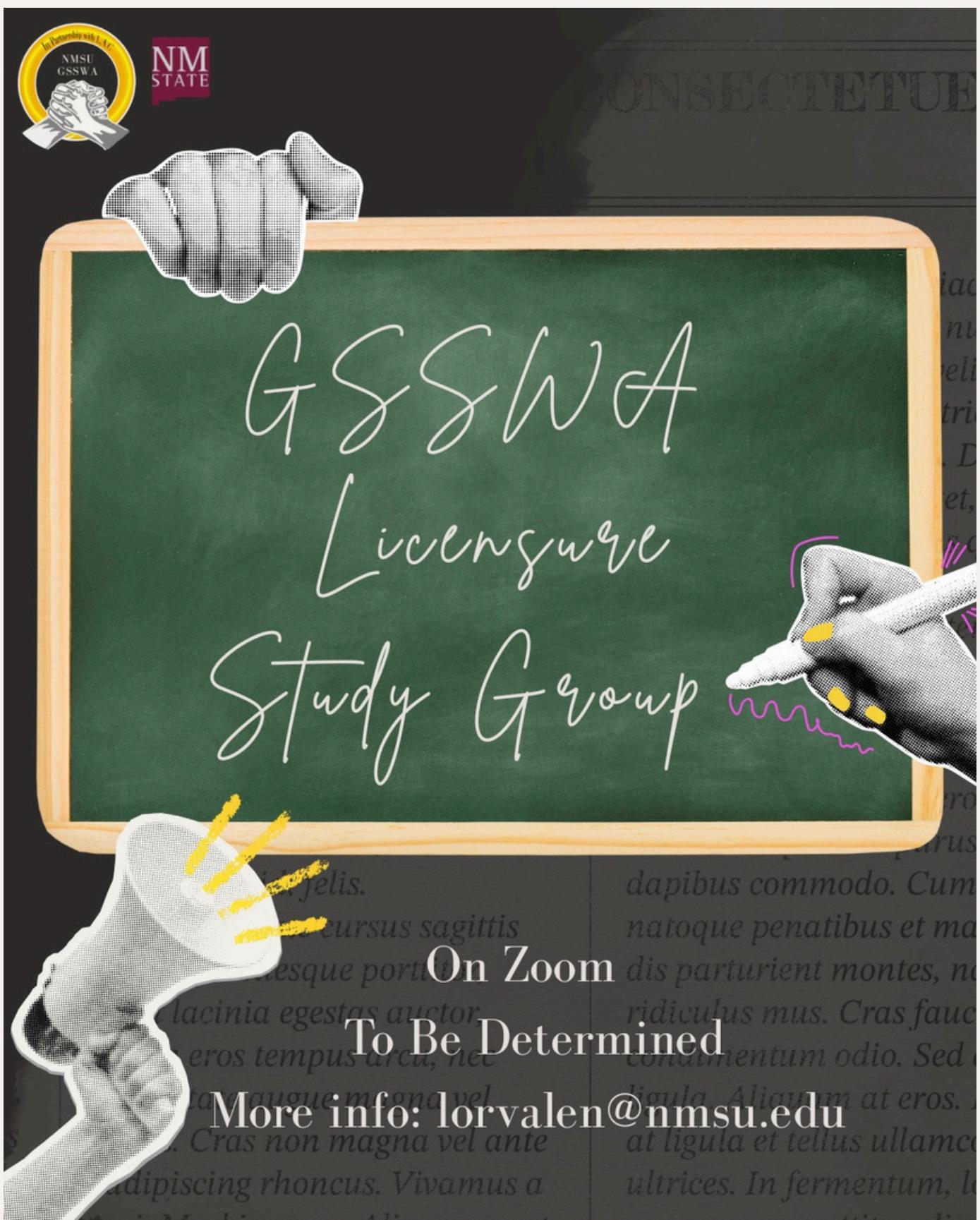
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NMSU ANNOUNCEMENT



**Spend Your
Summer with an
Unforgettable
Internship
Experience**

Application Deadline:
January 30, 2026

Program Dates:
June 3 - July 31, 2026

APPLY TODAY!



APPLY NOW



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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Save a Life Naloxone training



Join us on Saturday, January 31, 2026

11 am to 1pm

Where: Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave,
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Join us for this free, life-saving training on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose. You'll learn how to administer naloxone (Narcan), a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose and restore breathing within minutes.

This hands-on training is open to everyone – no medical background needed – and participants will receive a free naloxone kit to take home. Whether you're a concerned community member, friend, family member, or service provider, you can help save a life.



ATHENA HUCKABY MPH
PUBLIC HEALTH & HARM REDUCTION

575.519.5055
athenahuckaby.com



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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

2026 SOCIAL WORK STUDENT ADVOCACY & ACTION SANA DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE



Pictured: social work students in the Governor's Office during 2025 SANA Day at the Legislature

On **February 6, 2026** social work students from across New Mexico will meet at the State Capitol Building in Santa Fe to participate in **Student Advocacy & Action (SANA) Day at the Legislature**.



Upcoming SANA Trainings and Events:

1/27/26 • (Tues from 10 am–11:30 am) [Legislative 101](#) [Virtual]

2/5/26 • (Thurs from 6 pm–8 pm) • [Pre-event SANA Social Time](#) • [Sage Hotel Social Kitchen + Bar]

2/6/26 • (Fri from 8:30 am to 2 pm) • [SANA Day at the Legislature](#) [SF HEC & NM State Capitol Building]

Organized by the NMHU FVSSW [Center for Excellence in Social Work](#), 2026 SANA Day at the Legislature brings together collaborators including students, faculty and staff at organizations and institutions such as the [National Association of Social Work \(NASW\) New Mexico Chapter](#), [Eastern New Mexico University Social Work Program](#), [New Mexico Highlands University Facundo Valdez School of Social Work](#), [New Mexico State University School of Social Work](#), [University of New Mexico Master of Social Work Program](#), and [Western New Mexico University School of Social Work](#).

New Mexico social work students, “SANA is your chance to turn your passion for social justice into real action. You are not just learning about policy; you are shaping it! Your voice matters and the decisions being made in that building [at the State Capitol] affect the communities you will serve as future social workers.” said **New Mexico State University School of Social Work Practicum Education Director, Maribel Tellez, BSW, MSW**. “Advocacy is a big part of who we are as social workers. Participating in Student Advocacy & Action (SANA) Day is one simple way to make an impact” said **Eastern New Mexico University Social Work MSW Program Director, Dr. Melissa Moyer, LCSW**.

Developed by social work's national accrediting body, the [Council on Social Work Education \(CSWE\)](#), the nine core competencies ensure that social workers can provide competent and ethical services. The content and learning available during SANA day and its preparation trainings are relevant to several competencies including, [EPAS 2022](#) Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice.





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SANA provides students with the opportunity to not only develop their own legislative, policy, and advocacy interests but also provides actionable steps to create meaningful change. **National Association of Social Workers (NASW) New Mexico Chapter Executive Director, Lauren Gomez, LCSW** explains “SANA day reminds us that policy is never abstract. Every bill and every vote at the Round house shows up in someone’s living room, classroom, clinic, or community. As social workers, we are trained to sit with people in their deepest pain and walk alongside them through their trials and tribulations. But we are also called to stand in these halls of power and insist on justice.”

NMHU Facundo Valdez School of Social Work Interim Dean, Dr. John M. Tourangeau, MDIV, MBA, LADAC, LCSW notes that the SANA day “...experience empowers participants to become advocates for systemic change through education about legislation and policy processes, platforms for decision-making and change, and networking that fosters connections with lawmakers, community leaders, and those passionate about the profession of social work.”

In addition to a learning opportunity and what may be a student’s first trip to the Roundhouse, SANA and its connected activities allow for networking and relationships to be formed and strengthened. “The connections and relationship-building that happen at events like SANA when students are in their degree programs serve as a throughline of support to professional practice with access to a community of peers after graduation” said **Center for Excellence in Social Work Professional Development Coordinator, Amber Vilas, MSW**.

The importance of student voice shapes SANA day and its significance. “Watching our students find their voice at the Legislature is one of the most rewarding aspects of social work education. SANA provides an invaluable opportunity for students to practice the advocacy skills that will define their careers” notes **NMSU SSW Director, Mary Nienow, PhD, LISW**. On behalf of the NASW New Mexico Chapter: “social work student presence at SANA day signals that the future of our profession refuses to settle for the status quo. Students should attend SANA to ask better questions, demand better systems, and imagine better outcomes for all New Mexicans. Student voices matter; student advocacy is needed, and showing up makes a difference” said **Executive Director Gomez**.

Join us in empowering the next generation of advocates! To register, [click here](#). To learn more about 2026 SANA Day at the Legislature and the Center Plaza, visit: fvssw.org/center-plaza



Situated within New Mexico Highlands University’s Facundo Valdez School of Social Work (FVSSW), the Center for Excellence in Social Work (Center) was established in 2022 by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham with the aim of enhancing our state’s capacity to train and prepare social workers for competent practice with multicultural populations and communities.

For questions, contact the Center for Excellence in Social Work at ceswnm@nmhu.edu or 505-260-6197.



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Stay Informed Testimonies Action ▾ Give ▾

Minnesota is under occupation by federal agents from ICE and CBP, and we need your support.

Across Minnesota, ICE continues to stop, harass, and detain people regardless of their citizenship status. Normal life in Minnesota has been interrupted, as schools have been forced to close or go virtual, as people live in fear of leaving their homes or going to work. Minnesotans are organized and activated to respond to this violence. **But they need our help.**

This directory of places to donate to all comes from activists on the ground, plugged into the situation. Everything is vetted, with the exception of individual GoFundMes (not everyone is in our networks, and we don't want to pick and choose who is worthy of help.)

If you don't have resources to give, please amplify [what you are hearing](#) and seeing about Minnesota, across social media, but also to your networks, friends, and family offline.

[Read our testimonies](#) and know what life is like in Minnesota right now.

Overwhelmed by the amount of listings here? Donate to the [Immigrant Law Center of MN](#), who is providing assistance to hundreds of people with families detained by ICE, or the [Immigrant Rapid Response Fund](#), a fund assembled by a coalition of Twin Cities Foundations committed to getting assistance out the door as quickly as possible.



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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



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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



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SW STUDENT PEER SUPPORT

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!



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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



[nmsu_socialworkpeersupport](https://www.instagram.com/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](#)



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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!

