



The Social Buzz



School of Social Work

November 13- November 19, 2025



The Social Buzz



socialwork.nmsu.edu 1



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear SSW Students and Community,

Welcome to this week's Social Buzz! As we move through November, I'm energized by the engagement and purpose I see throughout our school community—from the scholarship opportunities you're pursuing to the events bringing us together across difference.

As we reflect on Veterans Day this week, I want to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of our military veterans. Many of you may be veterans yourselves, or have loved ones who've served. We recognize that service to country often comes with unique challenges—including navigating mental health, transition, and systems of care. Social work has an important role to play in honoring that service by ensuring our veterans have access to quality support and resources. Thank you for your service, and for bringing that commitment to community care into your social work practice.



This week, I also want to highlight something I deeply value about social work: our commitment to showing up during challenging times. Whether it's the food insecurity crisis hitting our region hard right now, the important conversations happening around sexual assault and campus safety, or the deeper systemic questions we're asking about loss, grief, and what it means to care for one another—we're in it together.

I encourage you to learn about the resources, learning opportunities, and community connections in this issue. Visit a food pantry if you need support. Attend the panel discussion. Sign up for the Growing Through Loss workshop. These aren't just events—they're invitations to live out the values we teach.

A special thank you to our faculty doing remarkable scholarship and teaching, to our peer support team showing up for each other, and to each of you bringing your whole selves to this work. You're the reason this school matters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Nienow".

Dr. Mary Nienow, Director





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Documentary Screening

🍕 **AND Pizza!** 🍕

November 17th 4:30 – 7:00 pm
Health & Social Services Building Room 219

If you want to attend virtually, you may join
Zoom at
<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/83380992816>

New Mexico is one of twelve states in the U.S. where Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) is legal. Learn about MAID in this touching documentary. Filmmaker Serene Dillman shares the story of her parents, when they decide, five years apart, to opt for medical aid in dying after being diagnosed with terminal cancer.



This **free screening of the documentary's first episode will be followed by Q/A and discussion with the documentary filmmaker Serene Dillman and Volunteers from End-of-Life Options New Mexico.**

RSVP Sherry Cain if you plan to attend IN-PERSON at sherryac@nmsu.edu





FACULTY SCHOLAR CORNER

Development and Validation of Scores on The School Based

Advocacy and Awareness Scale (SBAAS)

The development and validation of the School-Based Advocacy Awareness Scale (SBAAS) took 18 months, and was inspired by my own experiences as a school social worker. I noticed that while advocacy is one of the most important skills school social workers (SSWs) need, there wasn't a clear way to measure what advocacy actually looks like in practice, or how we can improve it. To address this gap, myself, and Dr. Kalkbrenner developed the School-Based Advocacy Awareness Scale (SBAAS), a new tool that helps SSWs reflect on and evaluate their advocacy work at different levels—supporting individual students (micro), schools and families (mezzo), and systems and policies (macro).



The SBAAS was tested with two groups of SSWs to make sure it accurately measures what it's designed to assess. The results supported three main areas of advocacy: advocating for student wellness, advocating for laws and policies, and confronting discrimination and bias. The scale showed strong reliability and connections with other well-known measures of advocacy. Overall, the SBAAS offers school based mental health providers a way to assess and strengthen their advocacy practice, helping ensure they are promoting equity and well-being for students and school communities at every level.

[READ MORE](#)





LOCAL FOOD ASSISTANCE NETWORKS!!

As a result of the ongoing [shutdown of the Federal Government](#), food assistance in the form of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will be suspended starting on November 1st. In anticipation of the laps in federal support the [New Mexico State legislature approved \\$8million](#) in funding to support local food banks, however New Mexicans rely on \$80 – 90 million of SNAP benefits every month. Undoubtedly, our local community in Las Cruces and our Global community across the U.S. will feel the impact of these policy decisions, emphasizing the importance of accessing and strengthening our local networks of support.

Below is a list of active food assistance programs in the Las Cruces/Doña Ana region. Please reach out to these resources if you or someone you know needs support. If you are part of the NMSU SSW Global community living outside of Las Cruces, you might consider creating a similar list to share within your networks. If you are able to donate time, food, or dinero to local efforts to feed folks, please consider doing so!

- [Casa de Peregrinos Mobil food Pantry Schedule](#)
- [Casa de Peregrinos Drive Through Appointments](#)
- [Aggie Cupboard – student ID required](#)
- [El Caldito Soup Kitchen – breakfast and lunch provided seven days a week](#)
- [Salvation Army Christian Fellowship – Thursday morning 8:00 am \(arrive early\)](#)
- [Gospel Rescue Mission – “emergency” food boxes only when other locations are closed](#)
- [Morning Star Church - First and Third Tuesday food pantry from 9-11 \(show up early -drive through\)](#)
- [Calvary Baptist – Must register first, every second and fourth Wednesday](#)
- [Las Cruces First – Bread of Life Pantry, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-12 and Sundays 12 -1](#)
- [Food Not Bombs – Las Cruces – vegan meal distribution 1st and 3rd Sunday. Klein Park 5-7pm](#)





SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Hello Aggies,

Native Forward is accepting applications for The Native Forward Direct Scholarship Winter/Spring 2025-2006

(<https://www.nativeforward.org/scholarships/native-forward-direct-scholarship-winter-spring/>). This is for students who have not been previously awarded from Native Forward but would need some assistance for the spring semester. The scholarship is also open to students who are enrolled in a federally or state-recognized tribe or descendants (1st or 2nd generation) of an immediate family member who are/was enrolled. This scholarship has a deadline of December 02, 2025 at 11:59 PM MST so you have time to register for classes and submit your application.

If you have questions about the scholarship or if you would like additional information, you may contact Michael Ray at (800) 628-1920.





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





SOCIAL BUZZ SUBMISSIONS

Please send
any and all
Social Buzz
submissions to
socwork@nmsu.edu
by **3pm** every
Tuesday





CAREER OPPORTUNITY!!!

Wraparound Facilitator

Department: Behavioral Health Clinic

Location: Rio Rancho, NM

START YOUR APPLICATION

UNM Medical Group, Inc. is hiring for a Wraparound Facilitator to join our Behavioral Health Clinic. This opportunity is a full time day shift opening located in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

Minimum \$48,182 - Midpoint \$60,233*

*Salary is determined based on years of total relevant experience.

*Salary is based on 1.0 FTE (full time equivalent) or 40 hours per week. Less than 40 hours/week will be prorated and adjusted to the appropriate FTE.

About this role:

The Wraparound Facilitator is a dedicated full time position, that provides Wraparound services to youth and families in the community. Under limited supervision the Wraparound Facilitator provides intensive, supportive interventions for identified families using the Wraparound model. Such interventions include running team meetings, coordinating care with other agencies, developing and utilizing informal/formal supports, identifying and making use of family strengths, etc. Responsible for helping the child/youth and family realize their vision and increase their autonomy from formal support systems.

Summary

Under limited supervision provides intensive, supportive interventions for identified families using industry best practices and/or standards. Such interventions include running team meetings, coordinating care with other agencies, developing and utilizing informal/formal supports, identifying and making use of family strengths, etc. Responsible for helping the child/youth and family realize their vision and increase their autonomy from formal systems.

Minimum Job Requirements of a Wraparound Facilitator:

High school diploma or GED and 4 years of directly related experience. Completed degree from an accredited institution that are above the minimum education requirement may be substituted for experience on a year for year basis. **Must be certified as a Wraparound Facilitator, or have the ability to become certified within eighteen (18) months from date of hire. Verification of education and licensure (if applicable) will be required if selected for hire.**

Required License:

- Possession of a valid unrestricted NM driver's license.



LEARN MORE





NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**Nov.
6th**

Leading with Community: An Indigenous Education Book Talk

• 12:00–2:00PM @ American Indian Student Center

**Nov.
7th**

Mic'd & Marginalized: Indigenous Storytelling, Ceremony, Resurgence, and Continuance Through Podcasting

• 1:30–2:30PM @ American Indian Student Center

**Nov.
10th**

Pottery Night

• 4:30–6PM @ American Indian Student Center

**Nov.
11th**

Indigenous Culture Presentation

• 12PM @ Zuhl Library, 3rd Floor
◦ Sponsored by American Indian Program & Black Program

**Nov.
12th**

NO ROADS LED STRAIGHT TO FORT SILL : Outlaw Myths and Kinship Truths

• 3:00–5:00PM @ Brandon Library 4th floor east side

**Nov.
12th**

FINAL: Home on a Plate Series 3

• 5:00–6:30PM @ American Indian Student Center

**Nov.
17th**

COMEDIAN NIGHT w/ Lainey Pablo

• 6PM @ TBA

**Nov.
19th**

U.N.A.O. Movie Night

• 5:30–7:30PM @ TBA



Office of Land Grant
Inclusive Mission





NMSU ANNOUNCEMENT

FREE CEU OPPORTUNITY

**BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO
AND EL PASO
SIGMA PI OMEGA**

PRESENT

COMPASSION FATIGUE AND SELF-CARE

Thursday, November 20th, 2025

5:00—7:30 PM

**New Mexico State University
1335 International Mall
HSS Room 220**

REGISTER HERE



REGISTRATION: <https://forms.gle/8FoFbTxHksolYEPq7>

ZOOM LINK: <https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/4824980094>

Dr. Angela Victoria Enriqueta Owens, Ph.D.

Director, Glass Family Research Institute for Early Childhood Studies
Assistant College Professor, Early Childhood & Special Education
School of Teacher Preparation, Administration, and Leadership
New Mexico State University

Dr. Shirlee Cohen, DNP, MPH, ANP-BC, NPP, CCRN

Clinical Professor HEST College, School of Nursing
Black Nurses Association of New Mexico and El Paso
Interim President and Secretary

NO CHARGE/FOOD AND DRINK PROVIDED

Free Professional Contact / CEU Hours

For Nurses and Social Workers

For More Information: Shirlee Cohen, (505)-377-1999

Coat Drive: Please bring gently used coats, jackets & sweatshirts

******Holiday gifts will be available for sale**





NMSU ANNOUNCEMENT

NMSU Panel Discussion on Sexual Assault

November 20, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
NMSU Zuhl Library 3rd floor, NMSU Main Campus

Free lunch for the first 25 students!

**Panelists from La Piñon, The Office of
Institutional Equity and The Round Up**



**New Mexico
Local News
Fund**



THE VOICE OF NMSU SINCE 1907

The Round Up

Las Cruces Sun News.
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



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Take our confidential NMSU Student Survey on Sexual Assault

The NMSU Round UP & Las Cruces Sun-News in partnership with The Southern NM Journalism Collaborative are hosting an ongoing survey to better understand student attitudes and opinions on the topic of sexual assault.

We're inviting current NMSU students to participate to better shape community understanding of this sensitive but important topic. Responses are confidential, and you can skip any questions you don't want to answer.

Scan to
fill out
the
survey!



Be Part of the Conversation.





COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT



POWER OF POLICY: TULAROSA BASIN DOWNWINDERS CONSORTIUM



FEATURED SPEAKER:

Tina Cordova, MSc
Co-founder, Tularosa
Basin Downwinders
Consortium



**CENTER FOR
EXCELLENCE**
IN SOCIAL WORK

Title: [Social Justice Teach-in] Power of Policy: Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium

Presenter: Tina Cordova, MSc, Co-founder, Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium

Offered by: The Center for Excellence in Social Work's Center Plaza

Available: Live training 11/19/25 (Mountain Time) from 6 pm–7:30 pm & self-paced afterwards

Delivery & Modality: Online | Instructor led or Asynchronous Learning

Details: CEUs 1 Cultural | **Level:** All | **Cost:** Free

Enrollment: <https://bit.ly/SJ-Teach-in-TBDC>

- New Canvas Catalog Storefront location with NMSU Microlearning. If you have a NM State University email, log-in with that. If not, please click enroll, which will prompt the creation of a new user account and continue to complete your enrollment.

Description: During this Social Justice Teach-in participants will have the opportunity to learn from Tina Cordova, Co-founder of the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium (TBDC). Through her work, Tina and the TBDC attention has been brought to the negative health effects suffered by the unknowing, unwilling, uncompensated, innocent victims of the first nuclear blast on earth that took place at the Trinity site in South Central New Mexico.

In her role as an advocate on behalf of the TBDC she has testified before several US Senate and House Committees. The passage of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Amendments occurred in 2024. This brought much needed health care coverage and partial restitution to the People of New Mexico who sacrificed and suffered with the negative health effects of overexposure to radiation since 1945.

The first hour of this Teach-in will be a presentation and facilitated conversation that will be recorded, followed by an unrecorded half hour community conversation. After the real time training and discussions have concluded, enrollment will open for a self-paced asynchronous version of this learning opportunity.

***FREE* CEUs 1 Cultural**

Center for Excellence in Social Work
nmcesw.org

Questions: please contact ceswnm@nmhu.edu or
for CEU specific questions, socialworkceu@nmhu.edu



SCAN ME



The Social Buzz



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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Mesilla Valley Hospice & Palliative Care Presents

The Growing Through Loss Conference



November 20th, 2025



6:00PM - 7:00PM



Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine
3501 Arrowhead Dr. Las Cruces
NM 88001
*Lecture Hall Room 160

This presentation will be available
to the community for FREE
Donations are welcomed



Debora Garrison MAEL, from
The Grief Center will be
presenting "What is Grief?"
(1 CEU Pending)



For questions please call
(575) 523- 4700



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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Mesilla Valley Hospice & Palliative Care Presents The Growing Through Loss Conference



Join us to learn more about Grief and Loss
Continuing Education Units will be available
(Cultural CEU's are Pending)



November 21st, 2025



8:00am-5:00pm



St. Paul's United Methodist Church
225 W Griggs Ave
Las Cruces NM 88005

Students- Free
General Admission- \$25.00
CEU's Admission- \$60.00
*Lunch on your own

Presentation Topics: Navigating Ambiguous Loss, Crisis & Grief, Faith & Grief, Play Therapy & Grief, Suicide & Loss, Next Step Planning, Trauma Informed Care, Therapaws and Alzheimer's/Dementia in Relationship to Grief

Limited spots available register by November 10 (Students must call to register)
You can register by using the QR Code or Calling (575) 523-4700



Click Here!



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THE DSJ COLUMN



October 2025

The DSJ Committee is looking for **YOUR** voice to enrich the Social Buzz! 🐝

Welcome to the new DSJ Committee column! This space is dedicated to amplifying *all* voices across our SSW community. Here you'll find reflections on practice, perspectives on social justice, creative pieces, and insights from the field. We're excited to share the diverse experiences and ideas that make our community vibrant. Check back regularly for new contributions and our monthly reading list!

Are you the creative type? 🖋️

We're inviting students, faculty, and staff to contribute to our column. **We're especially interested in amplifying student voices** - whether you want to share insights from your practicum, reflect on a challenging case, explore a social issue you're passionate about, or submit a creative piece that connects to your social work or lived experience, we want to hear from you. Faculty and staff are also welcome to contribute research insights, reflections on teaching and practice, or perspectives on social justice in our field and community.

Scan the QR code below to submit your piece and come back soon to experience the creative work of your peers!





CLICK HERE



Do you love to read?

Starting this month, the DSJ Committee will be sponsoring a reading list in our column! What do you read for fun? Need a break from textbooks and research articles? We want to hear about the books you love - the ones that shaped your practice, challenged your thinking, or offered new perspectives on social justice. Submit your favorite social work-related book.

Scan the QR code below to add to next month's list and come back the **first Wednesday of every month** to find your next read!



CLICK HERE





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





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!





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!

