



The Social Buzz

School of Social Work

November 20- November 26, 2025



The Social Buzz



socialwork.nmsu.edu 1



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear SSW Students and Community,

As we move into the final weeks of fall semester and the holiday season approaches, I find myself reflecting on the power of presence and community. This past week, I've been reminded again of why we do this work—and why our School of Social Work matters so deeply.

I want to invite you to notice what's happening right now in our community. Some of you may be experiencing the stretch of semester fatigue. Others might be feeling the weight of the world's challenges—the injustices we study, the real suffering we witness, the systems that still need transforming. And that's exactly when we need each other most.

This season, our Angel Tree Project reminds us that even small acts of care ripple outward. Whether you're able to volunteer, donate, or simply show up for a classmate who's struggling, you're living social work. You're modeling the belief that no one should face hardship alone.

I also want to acknowledge something important: the holiday season can be complicated. For many of us, it brings joy and connection. For others, it brings grief, financial stress, or difficult family dynamics. If you're navigating complexity this season, please know our peer support team is here. Our campus resources are here. You belong here, exactly as you are.



As we approach winter break, I encourage you to practice self-compassion. Rest isn't selfish—it's essential to sustaining the compassionate work we do. Spend time with people who fill your cup. If you're taking time off, truly take it. You've earned it.

Thank you for your commitment to this school, to your learning, and to building a more just world. See you on the other side of the break, refreshed and ready. To practice what we preach, the Social Work Buzz is taking a break next week and will return on Wednesday, December 3rd.

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

Dr. Mary Nienow, Director





In This Issue



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

<u>Child Welfare Angel Tree Project</u>	4
<u>Paid Practicum Opportunity</u>	5
<u>Spring Semester Graduate Assistantship Award</u>	6
<u>NMSU News Release</u>	7
<u>Scholarship Opportunity</u>	8
<u>New Course Addition</u>	9
<u>Give Feedback to Peer Support</u>	10

NMSU ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>Free CEU Opportunity</u>	11
<u>NMSU Panel Discussion on Sexual Assault</u>	12
<u>Student Survey on Sexual Assault</u>	13

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>Share Your Story</u>	14-15
<u>Survivors of Suicide Support Group</u>	16

SOCIAL WORK

<u>DSJ Column</u>	17
<u>SW Faculty Recognition</u>	18
<u>SW Student Peer Support</u>	19
<u>Peer Support Office Hours</u>	20
<u>Careers And Opportunities</u>	21
<u>Connect With Us</u>	22





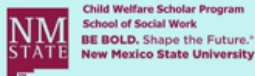
Angel Tree Project



Join the Angel Tree Project – Holiday Gift Drive and support children in state protective care. You can help by volunteering your time, donating gifts, or contributing funds to ensure every child feels remembered this season.

How You Can Help?

Use the QR code below to let us know how you would like to help!





PAID PRACTICUM OPPORTUNITY

Hello Practicum Students,

We hope this message finds you well! We are reaching out with some exciting news and opportunities for you.

Paid Practicum Legislative Scholarship

NMSU has been awarded scholarship funding from the **New Mexico State Legislature**, and we'd like to award you!

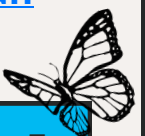
We know how hard you work, and this scholarship is designed to support those who are currently completing practicum **without pay**.

Eligibility requirements:

1. Must be a **New Mexico resident**
2. Must have a **GPA of 3.0 or higher**
3. Must be **registered in Scholar Dollars 2024-25** through NMSU.
4. Must **demonstrate financial need**
5. Must **not be receiving any practicum payment** (hourly, stipend, or reimbursement)

If you meet these criteria, please take a moment to complete the short nomination form below by November 21, 2025:

[Paid Practicum Student Legislative Scholarship – Fill out form](#)[Links to an external site.](#)





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.





New Mexico State University News Release



One of our MSW Students Leslie Konesheck was featured in NMSU's Newsroom!!!

Two students and a recent graduate from New Mexico State University's public health program are combining community engagement, advocacy and public health in innovative ways through the national Vote-ER Civic Health Fellowship.

Christine Dobbin, Leslie Konesheck and Jasper Finnegan are fellows in the 2024-2025 Vote-ER Civic Health program, a nationwide initiative that trains emerging leaders to strengthen democracy through civic engagement. Guided by NMSU adjunct faculty member Holly Mata, who previously served as a Vote-ER fellow, the trio represents a growing movement recognizing voting as a social determinant of health.





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





GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK!



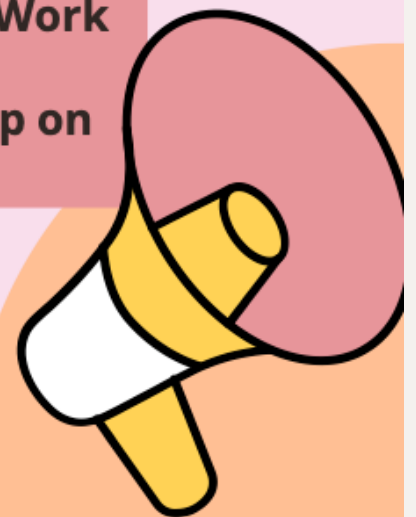
WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED?

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:





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



The Social Buzz



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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



Share Your Story. Help Break the Cycle.



CALLING PUERTO RICAN MOTHERS LIVING IN THE U.S.

Your voice matters. Your story can help future generations heal.

About the Research:

A Puerto Rican doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania is conducting a study on how Puerto Rican mothers experience, carry, and interrupt intergenerational trauma.

What to Expect:

- 📞 Introductory phone call
- 💻 Zoom interview (60–90 min)
- 📺 Receive a \$50 gift card
- 🌱 Support culturally rooted healing & research

Your Story is Powerful. Let It Be Heard.

Help challenge harmful narratives and uplift the resilience of Boricua mothers.

Interested or Have Questions?



Text or email the researcher:

Magdimar — 717-723-9887

magdimar@upenn.edu

No forms. No pressure. Just a conversation.

Your Story Counts. Give it a Voice.

Sharing your story is an act of power and collective healing.





COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT



Comparte tu Historia Ayuda a Romper el Ciclo



ALERTA, MADRES PUERTORRIQUEÑAS VIVIENDO EN ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Tu voz importa. Tu historia puede ayudar a sanar futuras generaciones.

Sobre el estudio:

Una estudiante doctoral de la Universidad de Pennsylvania está realizando un estudio sobre cómo las madres puertorriqueñas experimentan, cargan e interrumpen el trauma intergeneracional.

Qué puedes esperar:

- 📞 Llamada introductoria
- 💻 Entrevista por Zoom (60–90 min)
- 📁 Recibir una tarjeta de regalo de \$50
- 🌿 Apoyar a la sanación boricua

Tu Historia es Poderosa. Déjala ser Escuchada.

Ayuda a desafiar narrativas dañinas y a elevar la resiliencia de las madres boricuas.

¿Interesada o Tienes Preguntas?

Envía un mensaje de texto o un correo electrónico a la investigadora:



Magdimar — 717-723-9887

magdimar@upenn.edu

Sin formularios. Sin presión. Solo una conversación.

Tu historia cuenta. Levanta una voz.

Compartir tu historia es un acto de poder y sanación colectiva.





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

NOVEMBER 2025

 **THE DSJ COLUMN**





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!

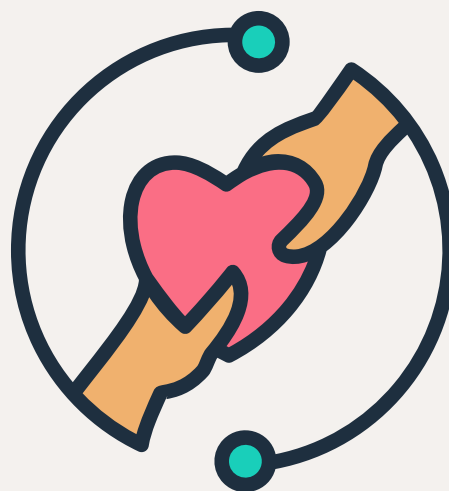


Careers & Opportunities



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!

