





School of Social Work

November 6- November 12, 2025







MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear NSMU SSW Students,

Welcome to another week! As we move deeper into November, I'm struck by how much our school community embodies the values we teach. This week, I want to draw your attention to both opportunities for growth and ways we can support one another during challenging times.

Supporting Our Community: SNAP Benefits & Local Resources

As many of you may be aware, the ongoing federal government shutdown has resulted in the suspension of SNAP benefits starting November 1st. While the New Mexico State Legislature has approved \$8 million to support local food banks, this falls significantly short of the \$80-90 million in SNAP benefits New Mexicans rely on each month. Our Las Cruces community—and communities across the nation—will feel this impact deeply.

This is exactly the kind of moment that reminds us why social work matters. See the comprehensive list of local food assistance resources in this week's Buzz. Whether you need support yourself or know someone who does, please utilize these resources. And if you're able to volunteer or donate, our community needs you now more than ever.

Exciting Opportunities This Week & Beyond

We have so much happening that reflects the vibrant, engaged community you all create: **Learn-A-Palooza (November 8) –** Join the HEST College from 10am-1pm for STEM activities, homecoming festivities, and more! Volunteers are still needed. This is a wonderful way to give back and connect with the broader NMSU community.

Documentary Screening: "Take Me Out Feet First" (November 17) – Join us from 4:30-6:00pm in HSS Room 219 for this powerful documentary about Medical Aid in Dying, followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Serene Dillman and volunteers from End-of-Life Options New Mexico. Pizza provided!







MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Free CEU Opportunity (November 20) – "Compassion Fatigue and Self-Care" presentation at HSS Room 220, 5:00-7:30pm. This is available for our social work students!

Scholarships & Financial Support

Don't miss out on the \$440,000 in scholarships and stipends now available through Scholar Dollar\$! This includes scholarships for both BSW and MSW students, plus stipends for unpaid practicum placements. Applications are being accepted now—this could make a real difference in your educational journey.

Building Our Culture of Belonging

Your Student Peer Support team continues to expand their services and is eager to connect with you—whether you need emotional support, academic guidance, professional development help, or just want to build community. Check their office hours and make an appointment. You belong here, and we want to ensure you have the support you need to thrive.

The DSJ Committee is also launching exciting new initiatives, including a monthly reading list and opportunities for you to contribute your voice through creative pieces, reflections, and insights. Your perspectives matter!

As always, my door is open. Whether you're navigating challenges, celebrating successes, or have ideas to share, I'm here.

Mony Yim Dr. Mary Nienow, Director







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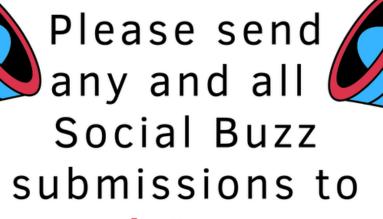


The Social Buzz





SOCIAL BUZZ SUBMISSIONS



socwork@nmsu.edu by 3pm every Tuesday







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
- <u>Casa de Peregrinos Drive Through Appointments</u>
- 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)
- <u>Gospel Rescue Mission "emergency" food boxes only when other locations are</u> <u>closed</u>
- Morning Star Church First and Third Tuesday food pantry from 9-11 (show up early -drive through)
- <u>Calvary Baptist Must register first, every second and fourth Wednesday</u>
- <u>Las Cruces First Bread of Life Pantry, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-12 and</u> <u>Sundays 12 -1</u>
- Food Not Bombs Las Cruces vegan meal distribution 1st and 3rd Sunday,
 Klein Park 5-7pm







Documentary Screening

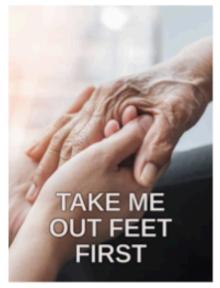


November 17th 4:30 - 7:00 pm Health & Social Services Building Room 219

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.

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This <u>free</u> 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









SPOTLIGHT!!!

Last Week Professor Mari Tellez held a "Dia de los Muertos Altar" in front of her office









GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK!



WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED?

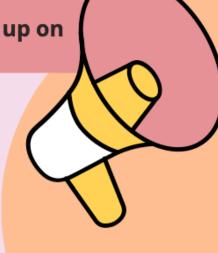
We understand that big listening sessions haven't felt realistic or motivating for many, so we're switching it up!

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:











This month's recommendations by Sara H. (student), Erica T. (staff), and Profs. Marez and Valdespino.

From the DSJ Book Nook



It seems there are two camps when it comes to reading:

Camp 1: "I love books!" — hardcover, softcover, audiobooks. Some folks live for the chance to escape everyday life and get lost in worlds carefully crafted by imaginative storytellers, while others prefer the mind-stretch that comes from engaging with complex ideas and critical thinkers.

And then there's Camp 2: "I hate books."

If you tend to fall into Camp 1, you might have been surprised to find yourself dreading reading after years of assigned textbooks, articles, and endless required materials. As a social worker with more years of service than I can count on two hands, I can tell you that the phrase "reading because I have to" still makes me roll my eyes and sigh deeply. Over the years, I've made several strategic attempts —some mildly successful, others complete flops—to reconnect with one of my oldest and most fulfilling self-care practices: reading for joy.

In more recent years, after a fierce recommitment to reading for pleasure, I realized what had been missing all along: the bridge between the work that sustains me and the words that nourish me.

And so, this reading list was born — a space to rediscover the joy of reading, to connect our professional values with personal reflection, and to remind ourselves that stories—whether academic, creative, or lived—are at the heart of social work.

Angelina Valdespina
DSJ Committee Chair





Scan to access this month's recommendations

6 THE DSJ COLUMN

NOVEMBER 20;







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!











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!











NMSU SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Empowering Future Change-Makers

MAJOR FUNDING AVAILABLE NOW!

Exciting News! Over \$440,000 in scholarships and stipends are now available for NMSU Social Work students!

Scholarships

\$250,000

- **BSW Students:** 20 scholarships of \$5,000 each to help cover tuition and educational costs
- MSW Students: 20 scholarships of \$7,500 each to support your graduate education

Paid Practicums

\$190,443

- B BSW Students: 10 stipends of \$10,000 for students completing unpaid practicum placements
- MSW Students: 9 stipends of \$10,000 for students completing unpaid practicum placements







Eligibility Requirements

✓ New Mexico Resident

GPA 3.0 or Higher

✓ Demonstrated Financial Need

DON'T MISS OUT!

Apply today through Scholar Dollar\$ to secure your funding

APPLY ON SCHOLAR DOLLAR\$ →



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!















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

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

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





SHARE YOUR HEST EXPERIENCE!!

Dear HEST Student.

We'd love to hear from you! The College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation (HEST) wants to learn more about how your experiences at NMSU help you feel supported, included, and connected.

Your honest feedback helps us understand what is working well for students in allied health fields and where we can do more to help you thrive—academically, socially, and personally. Allied health fields in HEST include Kinesiology, Nursing, Social Work, Public Health Sciences, Counseling and Educational Psychology, and Communication Disorders (including pre-programs too).

The survey is anonymous and takes about 10 -15 minutes to complete. As a thank-you, the first 200 students to complete the survey will receive a \$10 Amazon e-gift card.

Please complete the survey at the link below by Tuesday, November 11th. https://survey.nmsu.edu/surveys/?s=N8W989N7M8A9E8PJ

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Becky Palacios, Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of HEST, at rpalacio@nmsu.edu.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to share your experiences to help us improve NMSU's HEST Allied Health Programs!



The Social Buzz







NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



Leading with Community: An **Indigenous Education Book Talk**

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



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

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



Pottery Night

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



Indigenous Culture Presentation

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



NO ROADS LED STRAIGHT TO FORT SILL:

Outlaw Myths and Kinship Truths

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



FINAL: Home on a Plate Series 3

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



COMEDIAN NIGHT w/ Lainey Pablo

6PM @ TBA



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U.N.A.O. Movie Night

• 5:30-7:30PM @ TBA











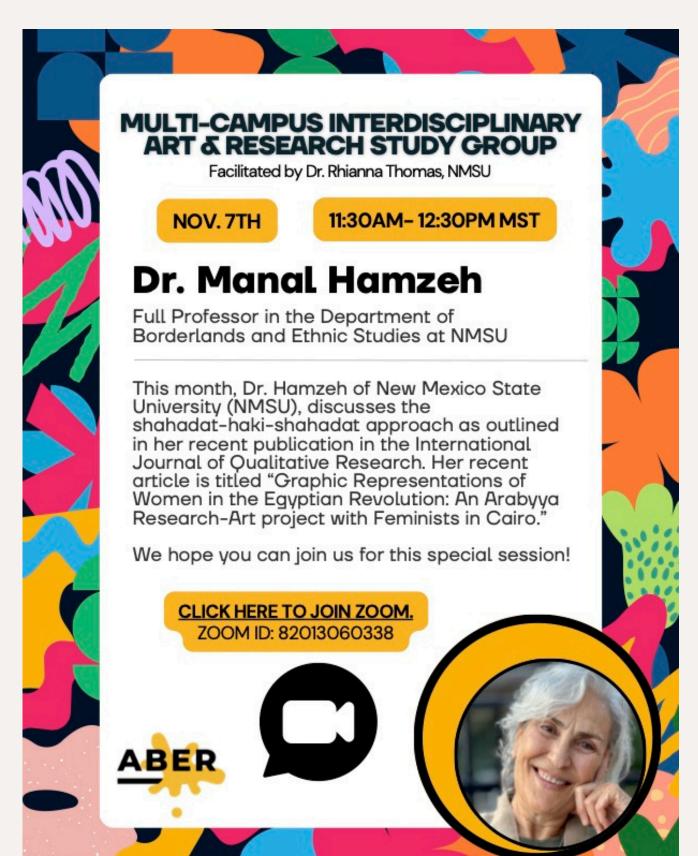








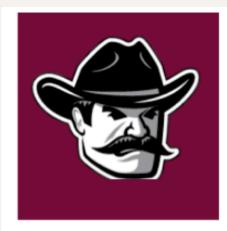












SCIENCE OLYMPIAD NM SOUTHERN REGIONAL COMPETITION

JAN 31 2026



NMSU STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AGGIE UP! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

NEEDED
Volunteers
Judges
Proctors
Role models
STEM activities

PERKS
SWAG, food,
volunteer
hours, lifetime
impact on
young lives!

2025 LEARN-A-PALOOZA





NOV 8

9:30 AM- 2 PM

2024 LAP Highlights









2025 NMSU Learn-A-Palooza

Featuring indoor and outdoor STEM activities, participation in the NMSU Homecoming parade, games, performances, entertainment, raffles, free food, football game, and more!

save the date

NOV 8, 2025 10AM-1PM

ALL COLLEGES AND
STUDENT/SCHOOL
ORGANIZATIONS ARE INVITED
TO HIGHLIGHT THEIR PROGRAMS
AT THIS EVENT

Presenter registration link here!!





Questions? Email: jmreyes@nmsu.edu or call us at 575-646-1397







The Yoga for Healing series offers a supportive space for survivors in our community. This trauma-sensitive yoga series is open to all NMSU/DACC students, staff, and faculty and will take place on November 5th and 12th at the La Piñon Office, located at 850 N. Motel Blvd. No prior yoga experience is needed.

Yoga for Healing Series



November 5th at 5:30 - 6:30pm

November 12th at 5:30- 6:30pm

with Lorelei Alvarez*

Hosted by La Piñon Sexual Assault Recovery Services
850 N. Motel Blvd

This gentle, trauma-sensitive yoga class offers a supportive space for survivors to reconnect with their bodies through mindful movement and breath awareness. Participants are invited to move at their own pace and explore practices that help calm the nervous system, improve the mind-body connection, and restore balance with emphasis on safety and choice.

We'll use simple, accessible yoga movements, grounding techniques, and breath practices to release stored tension, rebuild trust in the body, and improve connection. No prior yoga experience is needed.

We invite NMSU/ DACC students, staff and faculty. Free of charge.

Instructor Bio: Lorelei Alvarez (she/her)*

Lorelei is a certified therapeutic and trauma-sensitive yoga teacher with over a decade of teaching experience. She is trained in trauma-informed, restorative, therapeutic, somatic movement, and breath practices and integrates these practices to support healing and recovery. Lorelei's teachings emphasize self-compassion, empowerment, and mind-body connection to help participants reconnect with their bodies and inner sense of safety through gentle yoga, movement, and breath.



Contact Information

La Piñon at 575-526-3437 Mikaela at Mikaela@lapinon.org Professor Pelak at 575-496-3170







CAREER OPPORTUNITY!!!

Find Purpose. Find Your People. Join Del Sol Recovery Centers.

You didn't choose mental health work for a desk job. You chose it to make real change. At Del Sol Recovery Center, we're rewriting what compassionate, evidence-based care looks like together. Holistically.



🎋 Why You'll Love It Here:

- Collaborate with a team that actually gets it supportive, trauma-informed, and determined to enhance their clients' lives.
- Get hands-on experience in an expansive, innovative recovery program that blends therapy, community, and wellness.
- Grow your career with ongoing training, mentorship, and a work culture that values you as much as your clients.
- Holistic group treatment that combines art therapy, meditation, drumming and movement.
- Enjoy flexible scheduling and a workplace that respects balance and boundaries.
- Work for a thriving and expanding business impacting and metamorphosizing the recovery world without pharmaceuticals.

We're looking for people licensed in the state of New Mexico that are:

- Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs)
- Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCC)
- Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors (LADAC)
- Clinical Social Workers (LCSW)
- Master Social Workers (LMSW)
- Substance Abuse Associate (LSAA)

Perks of the job:

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- 45-65\$ per hour based on licensure and experience
- Supportive, caring, intentional and collaborative team environment
- Flexible scheduling options for some positions
- Organic meal prepared daily for employees
- · High-quality evidence-based care with a 70% success rate in the community

Please apply if you are ready to help people heal - and are committed to addiction counseling.

Send resume to delsolrecoverycenters@gmail.com with a cover letter or call 575-654-0576 to schedule a phone interview.

Del Sol Recovery Centers

Real care. Real connection. Real growth.







CAREER OPPORTUNITY!!!

Mesilla Valley Community of Hope

Job Title: SSVF Supportive Housing Case Manager

SUMMARY OF POSITION

The overall responsibility of the SSVF Supportive Housing Case Manager is to provide supportive services to homeless-tohoused Veterans to ensure they acquire the skills, income, and resources necessary to become permanently housed.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- · Carry out SSVF grant(s) according to grant and MVCH standards; meet benchmarks for occupancy, income, and housing stability annually
- Obtain relevant social histories and perform needs assessments for clients
- Prepare service plans and assist in completion of personalized safety plans and goals
- Calculate Rental Assistance support according to grant standards
- Provide current information on community resources, including employment, housing, legal, and other services
- Deliver Housing Assistance Payments and Utility Assistance Payments
- Update client files with detailed progress notes
- · Perform monthly home visits and inspections
- In accordance with the "team" philosophy of the agency, may occasionally be required to carry out or assist with other housing grant-related tasks in addition to the duties listed above
- Must believe in and act in accordance with the agency's mission statement and goals

SKILLS REQUIRED

- · Ability to both work independently and collaborate with a group
- Solid written and verbal communication skills, especially with training materials, report writings, and policies and
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Strong internet and organizational skills
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office software

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's Degree (B.A.) in Social Work or related field. Knowledge of crisis intervention, case management, and social work theory and ethics
- OR any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities
- · Community Health Worker certification may be required in the future

- Ability to read and interpret documents such as operating manuals and professional journals
- Ability to write routine reports, correspondence, and appropriate case notes
- Ability to speak effectively before groups
- Bilingual preferred

COMPENSATION

DOE. Occupational & Liability Insurance, Social Security, Annual Sick and Holiday Leave. QSEHRA (you must carry your own insurance and Community of Hope will reimburse your medical expenses up to a specific \$ amount) and IRA offered.

HOURS

- Full-time position, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Friday (MVCH employees typically opt for the 9-hour day of work which allows for every other Friday off)
- Occasional but rare evening hours may also be required

Submit resume to deputydirector@mvchlc.org.

The Social Buzz







Mesilla Valley Hospice & Palliative Care Presents

The Growing Through Loss Conference



November 20th, 2025

- (S) 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







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















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!







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

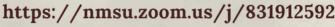
> Wednesday 7 AM - 9 AM

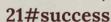
Thursday 7 AM - 9 AM / 5 PM - 8 PM

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:





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!







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:

Phone: 575-646-2143

office: HSS 210

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



