

Special Education School Social Work Symposium

Advancing Evidence-Based Practice

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CEUs
May 1, 2026	9 AM – 4:00 PM Breakfast and Sign In: 8:15-9 Sign out and CEU: 4-4:30	Domenici Hall NMSU Main Campus Las Cruces, NM	6 CEUs

Welcome!

We look forward to seeing you at the Special Education School Social Work Symposium! This document should include everything you need to plan your day.

Questions? Contact Stacy Gherardi at sgherard@nmsu.edu

Agenda

All sessions are held in Domenici Hall

8:15 – 9 AM Atrium	Continental Breakfast & Sign in
9 AM – 12 PM Room 109	The Role of the School Social Worker in Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline <i>Presented by Laurel Nesbitt, Senior Attorney, Disability Rights New Mexico</i> This keynote workshop explores how school social workers can disrupt systemic patterns that push students with disabilities out of schools and into the justice system.
12-1 PM	<i>Lunch on Your Own</i> (Sign out before leaving and sign in on returning)
1-2 PM Room 109	Preventing and Managing Challenging Behaviors for Students with Autism <i>Presented by Kali Hall MA, LCSW, Community Outreach Coordinator, Papen-Aprendamos Autism Diagnostic Center</i> Learn to set up situations, use prevention strategies, and implement skill-building strategies for managing challenging behaviors at home or in the classroom to support students with Autism.
2-2:45 PM Room 109	Multidisciplinary Panel on Interprofessional Learning and Collaboration <i>Facilitated by Dr. Stacy Gherardi PhD, LCSW (Associate Professor, NMSU School of Social Work)</i> <i>Panelists: Dr. Anita Hernandez (Professor of Language, Literacy and Culture, NMSU), Dr. Angela Owens (Director, Glass Family Research Institute for Early Childhood Studies), Suzzana Weber (Special Education Social Worker, Highland Elementary), Ladelle Hash (Special Education Lead, Centennial High School)</i>
2:45 – 3 PM Atrium	Afternoon Refreshments
3-4 PM Room 109	Power Hour: Sharing Evidence-Informed Interventions <i>PEERS: Kali Hall MA, LCSW, Outreach Coordinator, Papen-Aprendamos Autism Diagnostic Center</i>

	<p><i>CBITS and Bounce Back: Stacy Gherardi PhD, LCSW, Associate Professor NMSU</i></p> <p><i>Using Photography & Mixed Media Art to Depict Coping Tools: Chantelle Yazzie-Martin, LCSW, Special Education Social Worker, Mayfield High School</i></p> <p>Presenters highlight evidence-informed interventions from research and practice followed by participant sharing of their own experiences with effective, evidence-informed interventions in schools.</p>
<p>4-4:30 Atrium</p>	<p>Sign out and CEU Distribution</p>

Sign-In & Breakfast

Registration and continental breakfast will be available from 8:15 to 9:00 AM in the Domenici Hall Atrium outside room 109. Please allow time to check in and get settled before the first session begins at 9:00 AM. CEU tracking begins at sign-in. You must sign in and sign out for both the morning and afternoon sessions to receive your continuing education certificate.

Lunch (On Your Own) 12-1PM

Participants may eat wherever they wish. Corbett Center is a short walk from Domenici Hall and offers a variety of dining options. Additional on-campus and nearby off-campus options are also available. Please plan to return to Domenici Hall by 12:50 PM to check in and settle before the afternoon sessions.

Presenter Information

Domenici Hall Room 109 is equipped with a computer and projector. Presenters may choose to use the provided computer (bringing their presentation on a USB drive) or may use the USB output cords to connect their own laptop. Microphones should also be available to presenters.

Parking

NMSU requires a valid permit to park in most campus lots on weekdays from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Symposium attendees who are not current NMSU permit holders should use one of the free visitor parking options below.

Free Visitor Parking Options

- Symposium-provided Guest Permits: **The symposium has 50 guest permits for parking in any regular faculty/staff or student lots. These will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.** Participants may pick up their permit at check in and then return to their car to display.
- Free Online E-Permit: Save yourself any worry the day of the event! Participants can obtain a free single-day permit before you arrive for display on your dash which allows parking in any regular faculty/staff or student space. auxadminforms.nmsu.edu/ParkingForms/ePermit.aspx
- Metered Parking — \$1.50/hour, accepts coin or credit/debit card. Meters are in operation 7:30 AM–4:30 PM.

Full visitor parking information: services.nmsu.edu/parking/visitors.html

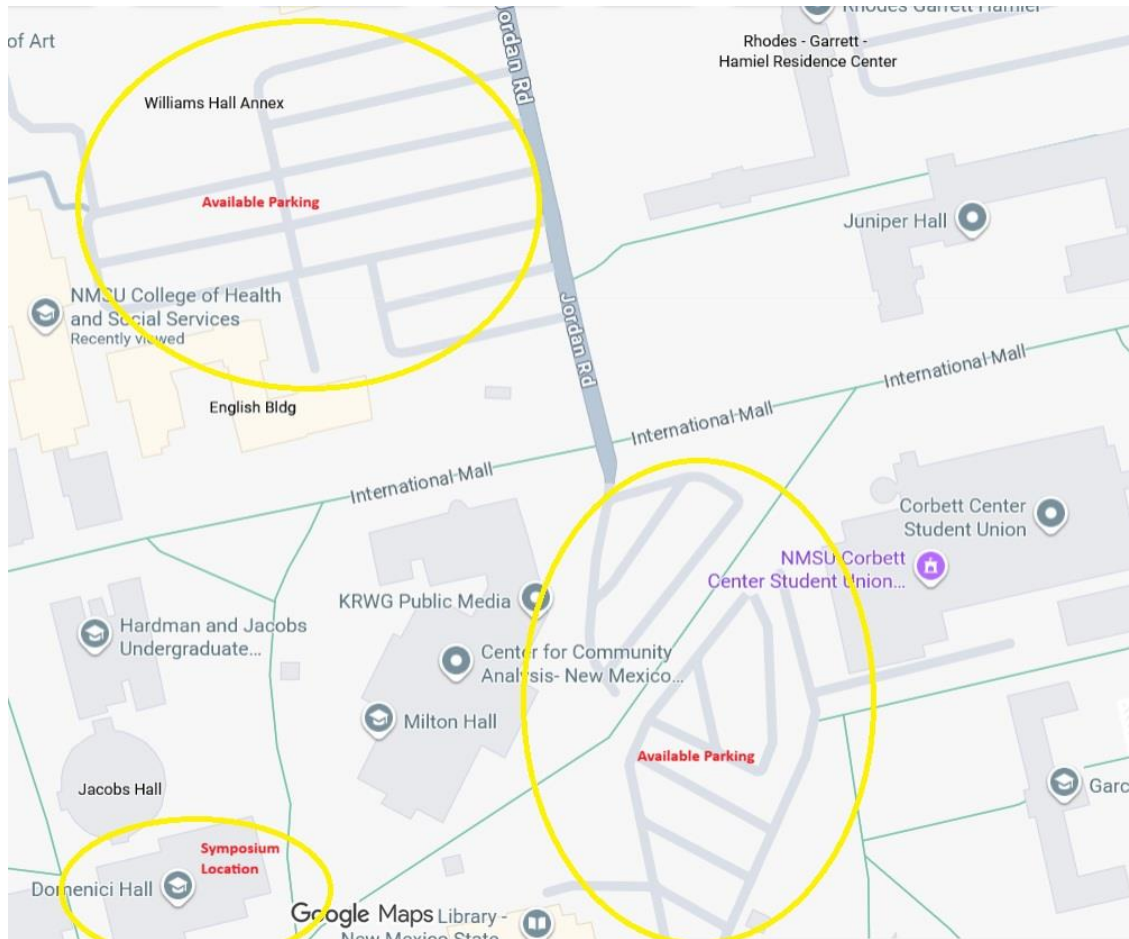
Campus parking map (PDF): services.nmsu.edu/assets/pdf/Campus_Map_2024_withBldgGuide.pdf

Recommended Parking for the Symposium

For the most convenient access to Domenici Hall, we recommend parking in the lots near the Health & Social Services (HSS) Building or near Corbett Center Student Union. Both are within easy walking distance. These lots are circled in the map below.

- Parking Lot near HSS Building — SW corner of University and Jordan. Parking available in front of bookstore and HSS buildings.
- Parking Lot near Corbett Center — central campus; also close to Taos Dining Hall for lunch

Avoid red, yellow, or green curbs and reserved/designated spaces, as these are enforced 24 hours a day regardless of permit type.



For a full interactive campus map, visit map.nmsu.edu

Presented by Project SWEET-SPED — NMSU School of Social Work

Disclaimer: The Special Education School Social Work Symposium is developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.