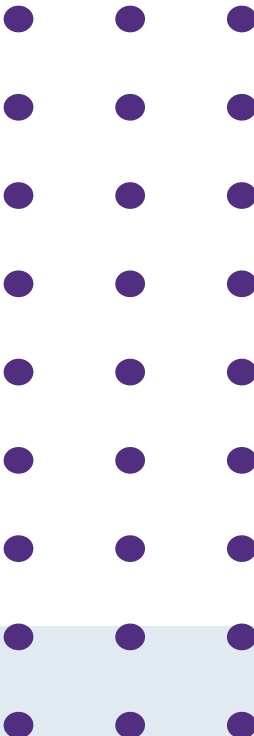


# New Mexico Highlands University

# 2020

## Legislative Fellows





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# New Mexico Highlands University Legislative Leadership Fellowship Program

New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) undergraduate and graduate students from main campus and centers throughout New Mexico participate in a selective legislative leadership fellowship program in which they will learn through practical experience about leadership, state government, and the legislative process. The program culminates with students engaging with elected officials and participates in the legislative process during committee hearings and Highlands' Day at the Legislature. Students participate in shadow days with legislative officials. Students can also earn academic credit by enrolling in a practicum available for students. Fellows will successfully demonstrate the NMHU Student Learning Outcomes of effective communication, mastery of content knowledge, and critical reflective thinking skills.





**Angelica Aragon**

I am a senior undergraduate student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Biology. I am currently a Senator with the Associated Students of New Mexico Highlands University Student Senate. I am also a Career Peer Adviser with New Mexico Highlands University Career Services. I recently was accepted into the University of New Mexico Law School. Upon graduation, I plan to return to Northern New Mexico to represent the people of my hometown of Mora.



**Kevin Dominguez**

I was born and raised in Las Vegas, New Mexico. I am a junior majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. Upon completion of my bachelor's degree, I plan to pursue a Masters of Business Administration, and then get a career that will provide me with the knowledge and experience to contribute to my hometown. I would also like to eventually run for office in order to help out my community.



**Patrick Elias**

I am a senior majoring in Social Work and currently serve as the Vice President of the Undergraduate Social Work Association (UGSWA) at NMHU. I have previously been recognized as an All State Academic Scholar through Phi Theta Kappa during the 2018 Legislative Session. I've completed internships at the Public Defender's office and the Eighth Judicial District Court in Taos, New Mexico. I have a passion for policy and administration that is influenced through a macro-level approach to social work.



**Xochilt Ramos Gonzalez**

I'm a freshman student athlete majoring in Political Science and competing in cross country and track. During high school, I was a state champion in cross country and earned a diploma of distinction and a bilingual seal. One of my interests is music. I know how to play three instruments including the piano, violin, and accordion. An additional interest of mine includes how government functions and the effects on society.



**Katrina Gutiérrez**

I earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a concentration in Public Administration and an emphasis in Law, cum laude, and am currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Affairs. I am a first-generation college student that comes from a family of eight. At times, I have faced much adversity that made it difficult to make graduating a reality. Graduating is my greatest accomplishment, but I also have many other accomplishments that I am proud of including being elected graduate Senator representing the College of Arts and Sciences for the Associated Students of New Mexico Highlands University, maintaining a great GPA an undergraduate student that allowed me to not have to pay out of pocket for tuition, being granted a graduate assistantship, and most importantly making my parents proud. My interests include ranching and studying law. In the future, I plan to be a political leader who represents all New Mexicans, but especially ranchers of the great state of New Mexico.



**Pablo Hernandez**

I am an international student from Leon, Nicaragua. I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship to study in the United States. I am an undergraduate student seeking a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Spanish. I am currently a Resident Assistant for Melody Hall at New Mexico Highlands University. Based on my observations of government corruption and ineffectiveness back home, I am interested in learning about government, democracy in the United States, and how the legislative process works.



**Aailinn Martinez**

I am a freshman at New Mexico Highlands University studying Social Work. I have been part of the program FACES for the Future where I had the opportunity to be an intern at Agora Crisis Center, Albuquerque Center for Hope and Recovery, Health Care for the Homeless, and Lovelace Hospital. I am a certified Community Health Worker, and I am shadowing behavioral health providers at El Centro Family Health in Las Vegas. I plan to go back to my community in the South Valley of Albuquerque to serve as a Social Worker.



**Dr. Billie G. Mathews**

I am a career educator who is dedicated to being a lifelong learner. As a lifelong learner, I'm continuing my education in order to be a more effective leader in education. When I am not studying or teaching, I love spending time with my family and performing music. I am a non-traditional student at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) pursuing a Master's of Arts in Southwest Studies. I have successfully earned a Bachelor's of Arts and a Master's of Arts in Education at NMHU, as well as a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in education from New Mexico State University (NMSU). As a veteran educator, I am allowing myself a 12-month layout to complete studies with the goal of returning to being an educator at the college/university level.



**Abigail Rede**

I am currently a graduate student pursuing an Alternative Teacher Certification. I have been fortunate to have had many opportunities throughout my life with the support of my family. Some of my greatest accomplishments include opportunities that have allowed me to help others, including being elected President of my high school's Drama Club and Student Body President my senior year. In my professional life, I have been a manager in multiple jobs and most recently held a variety of teaching positions. Currently, I am a general music teacher for an elementary school in Santa Fe, a musical theatre director for an after school program, and an improv coach at the Albuquerque Little Theatre. All of these positions have given me a platform to help educate, mentor, and shape the minds of our future's youth. As I continue on my educational and professional journey, I plan to remain in education in order to create lasting bonds and memories with my students and colleagues.



**Christopher Ulibarri**

I am a junior at New Mexico Highlands University pursuing a triple major in Environmental Geology, Political Science, and History. I am currently an Undergraduate Senator in the Associated Students of New Mexico Highlands University and was recently appointed as Amnesty International's Legislative Coordinator for the State of New Mexico. Upon my graduation, I plan to go to law school to practice Environmental Law to hold larger companies accountable in order to protect the water rights that the people of New Mexico so desperately need to maintain their way of life.



**Benito Vigil**

I am a native of Las Vegas, New Mexico. I am a junior double majoring in Business and Spanish with a minor in Political Science. I graduated top of my class from Robertson High School while also completing dual enrollment courses at New Mexico Highlands University. I was afforded the opportunity to participate in New Mexico Boy's State, where I gained valuable information regarding the inner workings of New Mexico's Government. I currently serve as the President of the Hispanic Culture and Language Association and previously served on the Associated Students of New Mexico Highlands University Student Senate as a Student Justice. I plan to pursue a law degree and practice in the State of New Mexico.



**Mission:**

*New Mexico Highlands University is a public comprehensive university serving our local and global communities. Our mission is to provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to attain an exceptional education by fostering creativity, critical thinking and research in the liberal arts, sciences, and professions within a diverse community.*

**Vision:**

*Our vision is to be a premier comprehensive university transforming lives and communities now and for generations to come.*

**Values:**

*Excellence :: Diversity :: Accessibility :: Responsiveness*