

Legislative Fellows 2020

Administrators: Max Baca, Dr. Denise Montoya, & Dr. Kim Blea







New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) undergraduate and graduate students from all campuses participate in a selective legislative leadership fellowship

program in which they learn through practical experience about leadership, state government, and the legislative process. The program culminate with students engaging with elected officials and participating in the legislative process during committee hearings and Highlands' Day at the Legislature on February 21, 2019. Fellows successfully demonstrate the NMHU Student Learning Outcomes of effective communication, mastery of content knowledge, and critical reflective thinking skills.



Maria Cardenas

Major: Accounting - May 2021

Goals: Ms. Cardenas hopes to become a certified public accountant and one day acquire her own accounting firm.



Jessey R. Martinez

Major: Political Science and Pre-Law - December 2019

Goals: Upon graduating, Ms. Martinez is planning to attend law school at UNM and is currently an intern at the Gallegos Law Office in Las Vegas, New Mexico.



Rebekah Peoble

Major: Political Science and Psychology - May 2020

Goals: Upon graduating, Ms. Peoble is planning to attend law school and is interested in either specializing in corporate or criminal law.



Nico Candelaria

Masters of Social Work - May 2020

Goals: Mr. Candelaria plans to use his education and legislative experience to advocate and support vulnerable populations in New Mexico.



Tamlyn Crain

Master in Public Affairs - May 2020

Goals: Ms. Crain is researching law schools and Ph.D. programs in history for after graduation.



Monica Demarco

Masters in Social Work - May 2020

Goals: Ms. Demarco is specializing in adolescent youth and create a unique space where youths can have access to support and resources tied to the role of the arts in social justice.



Mayra C. Perez

Masters in Social Work - May 2020

Goals: Ms. Perez goal is to work in rural communities and helps coordinate the Statewide Targeted Response opioid safe prescribing practices training grant.



Lizeth Sandoval

Masters in Social Work - May 2019

Goals: Ms. Sandoval aspires to serve immigrant families and to use her education and practice experience to benefit her community by obtaining a well-defined awareness of how we can continue to make our neighborhoods secure, wholesome, and resilient.



Diana Venegas

Major: Social Work - May 2019

Goals: Ms. Venegas would like to work on the U.S-Mexico Border region, working alongside social workers, politicians, and immigration attorneys that will make change happen with in social issues that deal with immigration.



Melanie West

Masters of Social Work - May 2019

Goals: Ms. West is a firm believer in secure attachments and resiliency, she is confident that with the right support New Mexico youth and families can thrive.



Larissa Willsey

Masters of Social Work - May 2019

Goals: Ms. Willsey plans to focus on macro level social work practice, but is still exploring specific areas of interest. Ms. Willsey is passionate about the areas of education, civil rights, and health and food equity.

