



New Mexico
HIGHLANDS
University

Dates to Remember:

Faculty/Staff Development Week
August 13 to August 17, 2012

Faculty/Staff Breakfast—
August 13, @ 7:30 am -
Student Center Ballroom

July 4, 2012—
Independence Day
NMHU Closed

September 3, 2012—Labor
Day, NMHU Closed

Classes begin—August
20, 2012

Staff Advisory Senate Meetings: Monthly -
Location to be
announced.

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The Pony Express



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

APRIL - JUNE 2012

SPOTLIGHT



Left to right: Leticia Padilla, Ernesto Juarez, Matthew Solano, Joe C'de Baca, Felicia Thornton, Francine Arguello, and Sara Madrid. Not pictured: Dr. Tom Colonnese and Linda Alaniz.

A message from... NMHU Rural Northeastern New Mexico Gear Up Program

The NMHU/RNNM GEAR UP program serves 23 school districts and approximately 1100 students and their families in the region. The program is funded by a six-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education and is focused on motivating students to consider a post-secondary education while insuring that they are prepared to succeed once that step is taken. Our program works with a cohort of students beginning at the seventh grade until graduation. We also work with school teachers, counselors and administration, as well as parents, to help realize the goal of GEAR UP. We are currently entering our sixth and final year of the grant.

Our academic program emphasizes those skills that are deemed necessary for success in college. That includes support of school staff in developing student math, reading and science skills. We have identified and recommended curriculum that meets the individual needs of students. We have

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STAFF SENATE UPDATES

- Suggestion boxes are available at the following locations on campus:
Student Center, Felix Martinez Building, Rodger's Administration Building,
Donnelly Library and Ivan Hilton Building
- All FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS are encouraged to submit their suggestions/
comments. Collected periodically, these comments are gathered, separated by area, and for-
warded to the appropriate individuals.
- The HayGroup is in the process of finalizing their report regarding the recent job classifica-
tion/compensation study. Results of this report will be made available shortly.
- The annual staff satisfaction survey will be available soon. Your input is IMPORTANT, so
please take a few short minutes to fill out and return. There are a few new items for your
consideration on the survey. A staff global will be sent out with further instructions for
completing the survey.
- Results of the recent Staff Senate elections will be publicized soon. Of a total 373 eligible
staff members, only 46 exercised their right to vote! Important to note is the fact that each
candidate must garner at least 10% of the votes from within their respective membership
group.
- As is customary, all staff is highly encouraged to attend our regularly scheduled meetings.
These meetings are generally held on the last Monday of the month, at 10:30 a.m., in either
the Felix Martinez or the President's Conference Room.
- Please visit the staff senate link on the Highlands website for updates on any of the above
information.
- Changes have been made to the SAS Bylaws, specifically with regard to the section on elec-
tions. For details, please visit the staff senate website.

**IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU, AS A STAFF MEMBER, MAKE EVERY EFFORT
TO BE INFORMED. GET INVOLVED WITH STAFF SENATE TODAY!**

From the desk of Margaret Gonzales, Staff Senate President

DEPARTMENT NEWS

continued from page 1 - SPOTLIGHT NEWS - NMHU/RNNM GEAR UP

designed a motivational component that rewards students for academic achievement and progress. Simultaneously, we have designed a stipend reward program for teachers that compensate them for individual student academic gain. Teachers are also encouraged to come up with other ways to help students achieve academic success that our program can support provided the proposed program is accountable and consistent with contractually approved goal and objectives.

The program complements the Highlands' ARMAS program in helping students make the transition from high school to college. Both programs are inherently necessary in helping support Highlands' open door policy. Current data exist that students who meet the academic goals of the program - 12th grade reading comprehension proficiency and demonstrated mastery of algebra, succeed in college.

Furthermore, we provide programs and help regarding financial literacy, scholarship opportunities, federal student aid (FAFSA) application, ACT test preparation including financial support to offset testing costs, and college campus visits.

The program is housed in the Industrial Arts Building on the Highlands home campus. The program director is Joe C'de Baca assisted by the Associate Director Leticia Padilla, who also functions as the budget director. Dr. Tom Colonnese conducts the internal program evaluation. Carrying out the implementation of the objectives of the program are four regional managers: Francine Arguello, Felicia Thornton, Ernesto Juarez, and Matthew Solano. Each RM has a prescribed number of schools from the 23 school districts. In addition, Linda Alaniz is a consultant to the program and helps monitor and update the database as well as producing the newsletter to parents and school staff. Support staff includes Sarah Madrid and various work-study students from Highlands.

DONNELLY LIBRARY

New Mexico Highlands University Donnelly Library, both at the main campus and Rio Rancho, supports teaching, research, and community activities of the university. The library acquires, organizes, preserves, and makes accessible, pertinent information and scholarly materials that advance the curricular needs, intellectual pursuits, and personal enrichment of its clientele. It promotes programs and services that emphasize the diversity of the university's multicultural community and heritage. In accordance with Highlands' overall educational commitment, the library elicits an environment of respect and understanding for its diverse population in an intellectually stimulating atmosphere that is conducive to academic achievement. Service areas of Donnelly Library are: acquisitions, cataloging, collection development, government documents, graphic arts, instruction, systems, interlibrary loan, periodicals, and reference. All of these areas facilitate the flow and control of services and collections necessary to provide quality service to our clientele, and to support research and instruction in the university. To do this, the library must conserve existing resources including collections, staff, and space, through planned change, and the acceleration of conscious change in the areas of technology, services, and intellectual access to maintain and increase the quality of support for learning.



MVD is offering NMHU license plates and NMHU vanity license plates.

Support NMHU and get yours today!

Quotes to Live by:

*“In summer, the song sings itself.”
-William Carlos Williams*

Or

*“Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.”
-Carl Bard*

Or

*“The best way to have a good idea is to have lots of ideas.”
-Linus Pauling*



Look Who's New! NEW HIRES

A Great Big Hearty Welcome to:

- Francessa Padilla, Dispatcher-Campus Security
- Stephanie Garcia, Custodian-Housing
- Lupe Torrez, Custodian-Housing
- Moises Lucero, General Maintenance - Facilities
- Patricia Lopez, Administrative Assistant-Library
- Ronnette Ortiz, Administrative Assistant-Receptionist-Rio Rancho Center

Employee Announcements

Congratulations to:

Stephen Tafoya and Evonne Roybal-Tafoya's son, Frank Roybal, graduated from Highlands on May 12, 2012. He earned a master's degree in Computer Science and Media Arts.

The EOS team would like to welcome these new staff members: Steven Lovato, hired as assistant ITV engineer and Jonathon Garcia, hired as temporary Help Desk technician.

The EOS team would also like to congratulate its student employees, Jamie and Kamar Bryant, on the birth of their baby girl, Akira Rae Bryant, who was born Monday, May 14, 2012.

Three Highlands faculty (Sara Brown, Sarah Corey-Rivas and Jesus Rivas), as well as two professors from Luna Community College (Lisa Bentson and Rick McNeill), led a tropical ecology course in Belize this past May. Three students from Highlands, three students from New Mexico State, six students from Puerto Rico and two students from the University of Belize participated in the trip.

Prescilla Ortega-Mathis' daughter, Jamie Lee, made the dean's list for Spring Semester 2012 at the University of New Mexico, with a 4.09 grade point average. Also, one of her articles was selected for review for possible publication in the national fitness journal, IDEA and her son, Stephen, was selected as Vice President of Public Relations for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and President of the International Association of Public Communicators at Loyola University, Chicago.

Human Resources Corner

Coming This Fall!

Comprehensive New Employee Orientation Program – We are developing an orientation program for new employees. The program will include training from various departments on campus and is designed by job classification.

Web Time Entry – Employees in exempt positions are now able to submit leave taken via Self Service Banner. We are working on implementing this feature for student employees and employees in non-exempt positions. Training sessions will begin in August.

Reminders

Payroll Information – It is important to periodically review your pay and deductions for accuracy. If you made changes to your insurance coverage during the open enrollment period, please verify that your deductions are correct.

Banner Document Management Suite (BDMS) – This enterprise solution is an imaging and electronic document management system for Banner. We went live with BDMS on January 1, 2011, which means that all documents submitted to our office are now stored electronically. In order to ensure that our images are as clear as possible, we ask that you only use white paper and that you sign documents in black ink.

Summer Employment Program

We would like to thank all the departments who participated in the City of Las Vegas Summer Employment Program. Highlands employed 12 participants for this ten-week program.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Welcome to the newly elected Staff Senate members:

Professional– Dominic Chavez, Tina Clayton, Margaret Gonzales, Laura LaCour-Johnson,
Darlene Tapia, Kimberly Valdez
Clerical– Alexis Duran, Doris Gallegos
Service/Maintenance– Rick Griego

Vacancies: 1 clerical, 1 service/maintenance, 1 technical

If you would like to serve on the staff senate in your classification group, please submit your name via e-mail to Margaret Gonzales at margonzales@nmhu.edu .

Should you have any questions/comments, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Staff Senate members.

A Great Big Thank You

The School of Education would like to take the opportunity to express our appreciation for and recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Michael F. Anderson, Dean of School of Education, who has accepted a new position at Wayne State College.

It has been a pleasure to work with someone as personable as you, Dr. Anderson. Your willingness to be approached, both on a professional and a personal level to address the concerns of those that sought your direction, advice, or opinion, has won you the admiration of all of us that received your caring and encouraging attention.

Due in great part to your extraordinary efforts, the School of Education has achieved some notable goals during your tenure. Serving as a Highlands representative at the meetings of deans and directors allowed you to nurture some professional relationships that paid great dividends for the Teacher Education Program. Your endeavors to establish collaboration with the Las Vegas Public School systems will benefit the community for many years to come. Not least of the achievements was laying the foundation for receiving and sustaining NCATE accreditation.

We will miss you, Dr. Anderson, and wish you the best in your endeavors. Do not forget us, for we will not forget you.

Sincerely,

Faculty and Staff

School of Education

Facilities Services

New Mexico Highlands University Facilities Services strives to meet the needs of the faculty, students, employees, and visitors by maintaining the quality of the grounds and buildings. Our two locksmiths and three carpenters are always available and ready to take on a multitude of tasks. Although it may appear, at times, that work is stalled, it is, in fact, on-going. These two divisions respond to hundreds of work orders that come through the department annually. Although the ratio of work requests per technician is 10:1, these employees work as a team to tackle each work order with an objective to uphold and preserve a safe and quality work environment for the campus community.

Painters, general maintenance, grounds keepers and custodians have been busy all summer preparing the campus for the fall semester.

Facilities heating plant crew, plumbers, hvac crew, electricians are also making sure that the power and air conditioning systems are working satisfactorily for the hot climate and also checking all heating elements for the preparation of winter.

Great Job to all of Facilities!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NMHU Alumni Association invite you!

The Home Chapter of the Alumni Association meets the second Tuesday of the month at Kennedy Hall at noon. Lunch is provided. We need all the participants we can get.

Also, on July 7, we are having a wine tour to four wineries in northern New Mexico. We will visit Vino del Corazon's tasting room in Santa Fe, Estrella del Norte winery in Nambe, Chiripada winery in Dixon, and Black Mesa winery in Velarde. There, we will tour the wine production and casking areas as well as the vineyard and tasting room.

We Want To Hear From You!

Please send in your ideas, stories, photos, questions and requests. We want to hear about what is important to you. Submit to any staff senate newsletter committee member.

Read past issues online at: http://www.nmhu.edu/Staff_Senate

Staff Advisory Senate

Margaret Gonzales - President 454-3495
 Thomasinia Ortiz-Gallegos - Vice President 454-3127
 Vacant - Parliamentarian 454-3410
 Lou Ann Romero - Secretary 454-3087
 Alexis Duran - Treasurer 454-3315
 Doris Gallegos - Member 454-3168
 Richard Griego - Member 454-3260
 Darlene R. Tapia - Member 454-3272
 Vacant - Member
 Vacant - Member

Please feel free to contact any of the above members directly with questions, comments, or general feedback. Thank you for your support and we look forward to hearing from you!

Staff Senate Newsletter Committee

Darlene R. Tapia - Chair 454-3272
 Doris Gallegos - Vice Chair 454-3168
 Yvonne Duran - Member 454-3020
 Carolina Martínez - Member 454-3269
 Prescilla Ortega-Mathis - Member 454-3311
 Wendy Quintana - Member 454-3387

Please contact any of the above Newsletter Committee members with any ideas you would like to see in the next issue of "The Pony Express."

Be on the look out for our next quarterly issue at the end of September!