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CONGRATULATIONS NATIVE EAGLE CLASS OF 2014

Anjil Baca (Santa Clara), AA Business Administration
Lawrence Bailon (Santa Clara), AA Film & Digital Media Arts
Andrea Harvier (Santa Clara/Pojoaque), BA Pueblo Indian Studies
Devonna Naranjo (Santa Clara), BSN Nursing RN
Jeremy Tapia (Pojoaque), AENG Pre-Engineering
Forrest Titla (San Ildefonso), AA, Film & Digital Media Arts
William Trujillo (Ohkay Owingeh), AA Business Administration
Tranette Turrietta (Ohkay Owingeh), BA Elementary Education
Angela, Talache (Ohkay Owingeh), AA Early Childhood Education
Leslie Martinez (Ohkay Owingeh), AA Early Childhood Education
Meghan Trujillo (Ohkay Owingeh), AA Early Childhood Education
Kenneth Chavez (Ohkay Owingeh), AA Early Childhood Education
Steven Hampshire (Nambe), AAS Certificate Welding
Dear community members,

In light of the many changes Northern New Mexico College has undergone in the past year, I want to take this opportunity to clarify some of the recent decisions made at the College. It is true that Northern has experienced both successes and difficulties. Just as we celebrate our victories, we must also acknowledge areas where we have fallen short.

I understand that some are questioning the stability of the institution. Given recent publicity, I can understand how one might raise such questions, but I also recognize that much of the concern has been based on inaccurate information and misunderstanding. This contributes to an atmosphere that runs contrary to the best interests of our students, our region and the progress we are making as a college. I embrace transparency and communication as part of my accountability to the community. I understand, however, that my openness about the College’s financial problems, many of which predate my tenure, creates a perception that such troubles began with my arrival.

When I took the reins, my charge was to nurture the accomplishment of Northern becoming a four-year comprehensive institution. Meeting the financial demands of transitioning to a four-year college that meets the needs of northern New Mexico is still a challenge we face today. This required hiring more full-time and doctoral level faculty, providing better student support services and creating structures within the college that ensure we continue the progress we have made in managing our finances.

As you may know, the College was placed on fiscal watch in 2007 in response to problems in its financial oversight. We have since carried out a financial recovery plan that included the completion of two past-due audits in ten months and the timely submission of the FY12 and FY13 audits. Also, for the first time in three years, the institution’s budget was approved for 2012 and approved again in 2013.

Despite our limited budget, we have been successful in increasing services for our students. For example, we developed the College’s first comprehensive Advisement Center last year, focusing on first-year retention, and began requiring every student to meet with an advisor before they register. Our work with lawmakers has yielded funding for an internal security department and renovation of the student game room, research laboratories, Student Senate chambers and the library. Our efforts to enhance quality of service also include hiring highly credentialed faculty from across the country. Each of these efforts were based on concerns faculty, staff and students have raised via ongoing discussions.

Last year, the Board of Regents charged the administration with the review of academic programs. We considered the College’s core mission, program enrollment, graduation rates and employment outlook for graduates. Based upon this analysis and with the assistance of an independent auditor and a committee comprised of faculty and staff, I recommended that three programs be discontinued in the upcoming year. These programs are Construction Management, Automotive Technology and Radiology. Please note that Construc-
tion Management does not include trades such as plumbing, electricity or welding. Considering the closure of any program is a difficult and unfortunate task, but one that is sometimes necessary in order to preserve our College. Rest assured that for students already enrolled in these programs, the College will continue to provide the necessary courses, resources and support services needed to complete their degree.

I respect that the automotive program plays a vital role in an art form unique to northern New Mexico. Therefore, we intend to explore the possibility of offering Automotive Technology as a continuing education program. Student feedback has shown that this model is a current success for the College’s Spanish Colonial Furniture program in El Rito.

We are still committed to providing associate degrees and certificates in the trades and helping students obtain their GED. We are also working to find solutions to student and community concerns, including affordability, access, workforce needs and academic quality. We revisited the impact of raising costs and consequently, beginning this summer, the College is implementing a community rate for studio arts courses. The new rate of $100 per credit hour is available to part-time, non-degree seeking students. There will be no tuition increase this year, despite the State encouraging us to explore the option in order to align with other comprehensive institutions.

We anticipate that housing will be available on our main campus next Fall, which will allow us to grow our enrollment, provide a better experience for our students and enrich the local economy. Campus housing will also accommodate Río Arriba students who live too far for a daily commute. Currently, we are the only four-year institution in New Mexico that does not have a residence hall. Eventually, our hope is also to provide family housing for students with children.

Although we have done much to increase communication, I know we can do better. This was clear when 45 percent of full-time faculty expressed a vote of no confidence in the administration. Regardless of how people feel about myself, the current leadership, or recent decisions, the College’s reputation is something we all take part in. I believe that shared governance prompts the need for shared responsibility. Issues of quality instruction, retention and graduation rates are also an integral part of the faculty’s role.

Increasing our enrollment is a critical way the College can remain viable. Sadly, misinformation and attacks obstruct opportunities to have civil conversations to address these important issues. This ultimately harms our community relationships and our ability to serve students. I believe fundamentally that we all care about the future of Northern and although we may disagree on solutions, taking the time to find common ground goes a long way towards improving working relationships.

Despite doubts, there have also been many who have shared support for the direction I have taken the College. All input is valid, and I remain optimistic that we can move forward together. It will require all of us: the Board, students, faculty, staff and you, the community, to make Northern what this region deserves.

My thanks to all who support us. You bring much needed hope during this difficult time. I welcome critique and demand for accountability, but also encourage each of you to evaluate information in order to make sound judgments. Together, we have the power to make Northern New Mexico College great, for the sake of our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy “Rusty” Barceló
1. **GENERAL INFORMATION:** The Tsay Corporation Scholarship’s (TCS) objective is to provide scholarship assistance to tribal members in good standing who are able to use their course of study to contribute to the well-being of Ohkay Owingeh. Students must attend a college or university on a full-time basis and attend an accredited institution. TCS may be awarded by semester or by academic year. Award amount: up to $1500.

2. **DEADLINES:** It is the applicant's sole responsibility to meet all final deadlines of the TCS. Missing material due to failure by others to meet final deadlines will cause your application not to be processed. It is the sole responsibility of the student to follow up and ensure that Tsay receives documents on or before designated deadlines.

3. **ELIGIBILITY:**
   - Be an enrolled tribal member of Ohkay Owingeh
   - GED, Graduating High School senior or current college student
   - Proof of full time enrollment at an accredited two-year or four-year college
   - TCS will be applied directly toward the student’s account at the college for tuition, fees, books, room and board expenses.

**DUE July 11, 2014.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER

(505) 747-5015
Northern Receives $48,000 Grant for Student Research Initiative

Española, NM- Northern New Mexico College has been awarded $48,000 BLOOME Grant from the American Society of Plant Biologists for its Plant Educational Experience in Research (PEER) project.

Dr. Mario Izaguirre-Sierra, who heads up the project, says that his Biology of the Cell Nucleus Lab is unique in that it employs undergraduate students to do real biologic research, something generally reserved for graduate students. Since the fall of 2013, Izaguirre-Sierra has trained 11 students at different levels, including one high school student.

"I think this speaks to the fact that Northern has something unique to offer undergraduates," Izaguirre-Sierra said. "Most of this type of research is being done in graduate laboratories but we are doing the exact same thing here."

The primary goal of the PEER project is to engage students in relevant and stimulating laboratory experiences that will develop curiosity and understanding about science, biology, technology and plant science specifically. The program also engages students in peer mentoring and outreach.

Izaguirre-Sierra says he encourages his students to present their work at conferences. This July, four of his students will present at the American Society of Plant Biology Conference in Portland, OR. Several students also presented at this year’s Academic Research and Creativity Symposium.

Izaguirre-Sierra joined Northern’s Biology Department last year and has been invited to speak at the Max Planck Society in Germany, the National Center for Scientific Research in France, and the American Society for Cell Biology Workshop in Puerto Rico.

For more information, Contact:
Dr. Mario Izaguirre-Sierra, Assistant Professor of Biology
Northern New Mexico College
(505) 747-5474
mario.izaguirre@nnmc.edu
SUMMER 2014

Featured Event

SUNDAY,
JULY 12th, 2014
7:00 am - 1:00pm

¡Sostenga!
Center Farm
@ NORTHERN
New Mexico College
1027 N Railroad Ave, Española, NM 87532

Join us for great music,
food, games, prizes,
and building community!

Cash Prizes for Top Garlic Picking Team

¡Sostenga! 7th Annual Garlic Harvest Festival

For more information or to register a team,
call 505-747-2256 or 747-2100.

Updates @ facebook.com/sostenga.atnorthern

Free and open to the public. Breakfast will be served.

Join us before/after the Española Valley Fiestas Children’s Parade.
Start Something BIG!
Native American Mentoring Initiative Call For Volunteers

We are looking for Native American volunteers (from any tribe) to be Big Brothers and Big Sisters to local youth.

We are looking for Native American volunteers (from any tribe) to be Big Brothers and Big Sisters to local youth.

Be a part of helping a youth in your community change their life for the better, forever. The commitment is simple: a minimum of one year mentoring your “Little”, and spending time with your “Little” at least twice a month.

If you are interested, please contact Kenna Chavarria: kenna.chavarria@bbbs-nnm.org or 505-699-6267 or Caitlin Cleary: caitlin.cleary@bbbs-nnm.org or 505-614-4199

Our Mentoring Programs Work
Studies prove when youth are matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister for at least one year, the youth is:

- 46% less likely to begin using illicit drugs
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 33% less likely to hit someone

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico
Beginning this summer, Northern New Mexico College will offer a reduced rate for community members taking select studio arts classes. Non-degree seeking students taking six credit hours or less will pay $100 per credit hour, a savings of up to $400 per class, compared to previous semesters. Studio arts courses range from one to four credits each and include art, music, dance, film and theater.

"These courses are valuable to the sustainability of northern New Mexico art and culture, and they should be affordable," Vice President of Institutional Advancement Ricky Serna said.

To take advantage of these special rates, register now by calling (505) 747. 2111 or visit www.nnmc.edu
Conference Theme: “Desterrados: Stories of Exile, Displacement & Making Home”
Bi-Annual Conference – October 10-11, 2014
Northern New Mexico College, El Rito Campus

The second bi-annual Historias de Nuevo Mexico Histories of New Mexico conference recognizes the complex ways in which New Mexicans connect to and think about the multiple concepts of what it means to have a homeland. This year’s conference theme: “Desterrados: Stories of Exile, Displacement & Making Home” – is an effort to honor and acknowledge the importance of (re)membering the people, stories, and places that contribute to our understanding of what it means to “make home.” Cultural geographer, Daniel Arreola, helps us to understand connection to a homeland as simultaneously discontinuous, continuous and emerging. It’s not just about physical mapping, but the embodiment of cultural and historic perspectives that define and re-define our connections to home.

The Historias de Nuevo Mexico welcomes proposals that ruminate on stories of exile, displacement, continuity and making home, broadly defined. This is an interdisciplinary historical conference that examines the multiple histories of New Mexico. We invite scholars from any concerned discipline and from the community at large to help us examine our Nuevomexicana/o querencia. As the practice of history is ultimately a collective effort to be shared and created in a common space, this conference will merge the spheres of academic and community scholarship. We will convene at one of New Mexico’s oldest institutions of higher education, the El Rito Campus of Northern New Mexico College in El Rito, NM.

We also welcome proposals that address the following areas:
- El Río Arriba y El Río Abajo
- 150th Anniversary of the Lincoln Pueblo Canes (inter-governmental tribal affairs)
- 400th Anniversary of the Exile of Don Juan de Oñate from New Mexico
- Trails and Commerce — Labor Identities
- Global/local: Geopolitical region, critical region and transnationalism in New Mexico
- Diasporic Manitos: Leaving and coming back home again
- Women and Children in New Mexico
- Queer New Mexico
- Mexican National Identity in New Mexico
- Diversity and Ethnicities in the New Mexico
- Peoples, Places, and Cultures
- Foods, Traditions, Ceremonies

When submitting a panel or individual paper, include a 250-word abstract that outlines the panel and/or paper. Each proposal, whether individual or part of a session, should include a one-paragraph abstract and a one-page c.v., including address, phone, and email address for each participant. Indicate AV equipment needs, if any. We welcome paper/panel submissions, as well as performances, readings, workshops, roundtable discussions, etc.

Email each submission, with supporting materials, as a single document (PDF) to: nmhistorias@nmmc.edu or send by mail to: Patricia Trujillo, Ph.D, Department of Humanities. Northern New Mexico College, 921 Paseo de Oñate, Española, NM 87532. Deadline August 1, 2014.
### June 2014

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Our Mission

Our mission is to create and implement a safe and empowering learning environment that prepares native students to contribute to the well-being of themselves and that of their respective communities. We are here to provide students with access to safe spaces to succeed in their environments.

Visit: nnmc.edu/american-indian-center