



**New Mexico
Higher Education Assessment &
Retention Conference**

Navigating Success: Assessment in an Era
of Transformation

March 5 – March 6, 2026
Albuquerque, NM

New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association, Inc.

A New Mexico Non-Profit Corporation

Established in 1995 to promote improvement in New Mexico higher education through outcomes assessment; to increase communication, cooperation, and sharing of resources and ideas on outcomes assessment in higher education; and to advance the efficiency of outcomes assessment in higher education in the state of New Mexico.

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2003	Pierre Laroche (Doña Ana Community College)

Conference Locations

2022-present	Marriott Albuquerque
2021	No conference held
2007-2020	Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
2006	Las Cruces Hilton Hotel
2005	Sheraton Old Town – Albuquerque
2004	Marriott Pyramid North – Albuquerque
2003	Las Cruces Hilton Hotel
2002	Crowne Plaza – Pyramid – Albuquerque
2001	Albuquerque Hilton Hotel
2000	Las Cruces Hilton Hotel

Past Presidents and Conference Locations before 2000 can be found at
<https://nmhear.nmsu.edu/conference/about.html>

NMHEAR Welcome



New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association
1500 S. Avenue K, Station 2
Portales, NM 88130
575.562.2315

Dear Colleagues and Conference Attendees

I'm thrilled to welcome you to the 2026 Annual Conference of the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association! This year's theme, *Navigating Success: Assessment in an Era of Transformation*, captures the exciting challenges and opportunities we face as assessment professionals in a rapidly evolving higher education landscape.

We're at a remarkable moment in our field. New technologies, innovative pedagogies, and changing student needs are reshaping how we think about teaching and learning—and assessment must keep pace. That's exactly what we'll explore together over the next two days.

I am exceptionally honored to welcome our keynote speaker, Dr. Gwen Perea Warniment, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Los Alamos National Labs Foundation. Dr. Warniment brings exceptional leadership experience, including her previous role as Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment at the New Mexico Public Education Department. She holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and Bilingual STEM Education from New Mexico State University, along with graduate and undergraduate degrees from New Mexico Highlands University and the University of New Mexico. Her insights will be invaluable as we consider assessment's evolving role in higher education.

Our program features outstanding concurrent sessions and workshops led by colleagues doing innovative work at their institutions. You'll hear about real successes, practical strategies, and honest conversations about the challenges we all face. These are the discussions that make our conference so valuable.

I want to thank our generous sponsors—NMSU Global, EdSights, and Slate Group—for making this conference possible. Their support allows us to bring together experts from across the country with New Mexico's talented assessment community.

Please join us on Friday, March 6, at 8:00 am, for our Annual Membership & Board Meeting. We'll elect new officers and begin planning for 2027, and your input is crucial to shaping our association's future. For complete conference details, session information, and the full schedule, visit <https://nmhear.nmsu.edu/>.

I can't wait to see the ideas we'll share, the connections we'll make, and the energy we'll bring to advancing assessment practice in New Mexico and beyond. Thank you for being part of this vibrant professional community!

With enthusiasm,
William (Bill) Brown
President
New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association

Overview Schedule

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Time	Event
7:30 am - 4:00 pm	Conference Registration
8:30 am - 11:00 am	Pre-Conference Workshops
11:30 am - 12:45 pm	Keynote Address & Lunch
1:15 pm - 2:00 pm	Session One
2:15 pm - 3:00 pm	Session Two
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Break (networking opportunity)
3:30 pm - 4:15 pm	Session Three
4:30 pm - 5:15 pm	Session Four
4:30 pm - 5:15 pm	Poster Session
5:30 pm – 6:15 pm	Session Five
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Networking Reception

Friday, March 6, 2026

Time	Event
7:30 am - 11:00 am	Conference Registration
7:30 am - 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am - 8:45 am	Annual Membership & Board Meeting for New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association Meeting (open to all attendees)
9:00 am - 9:45 am	Session Six & Annual Meetings
10:00 am - 10:45 am	Session Seven
11:00 am - 11:45 am	Town Hall with New Mexico Higher Education Department (NM HED)

Schedule At-a-glance

Key

Student Retention & Success Metrics	Artificial Intelligence Focus	Dual Credit & Early College	Culturally Responsive Leadership	Vendor
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Thursday Pre-Conference Workshops

Start	End	Sandia	Pecos
8:30 AM	11:00 AM	Pre-Conference Workshop: NM State Dual Credit Meeting Facilitated by Jody Weber (NM HED) and Marc Duske (NM PED)	Pre-Conference Workshop: Building, Growing, and Sustaining Non-Credit Workforce Training Programs in New Mexico Facilitated by Todd DeKay (ENMU) and Laura Grant (NMSU). Featuring presentations from Steve Saucedo (NMJC), Laura Beer (San Juan Community College), Joy Forehand (CNM), and Amber Gallup (NM HED).

Lunch and Keynote

Start	End	Salons E & F
11:30 AM	12:45 PM	Why Emotionally Intelligent Approaches to Assessment Matter for the Story of New Mexico's Students Gwen Perea Warniment President & CEO of the LANL Foundation Los Alamos National Labs

AT A GLANCE

Meet students where they are



THE EDSIGHTS DIFFERENCE

We are the first AI-powered texting system built specifically for retention and persistence. While other bots mostly focus on answering FAQs, our system, via our proactive outreach framework (managed by EdSights), collects real-time information to build student risk profiles around belonging, wellness, financial distress, and academic engagement.

EdSights is the only comprehensive solution that continuously learns about students and personalizes check-ins and resources to align with each student's most critical risk factors.

By learning from millions of data points across 100+ schools, we understand which challenges correlate most with student attrition. This collective intelligence allows EdSights to provide targeted short lists of follow-up opportunities to your student support staff while shedding light on the border trends within the University that empower long-term student success planning

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"I receive marketing pitches for education products daily, each I take with a grain of salt. EdSights went above and beyond and fulfilled every commitment they made to us. **After 3 years of retention decline, we onboarded EdSights and realized a 4-percentage point gain in retention.**"

DR. TERRY ELAM, VP FOR ENROLLMENT BETHEL UNIVERSITY

QUESTIONS? REACH OUT TO: HELLO@EDSIGHTS.IO

Schedule At-a-glance

Thursday Afternoon, Sessions 1-3

Session	Time	Cimarron	Las Cruces	Santa Fe	Salons G & H	Carlsbad	Salons I & J	Sandia	Pecos	Salons C & D	Salons A & B	Acoma
Session 1	1:15 PM - 2:00 PM	First Year Faculty and International Faculty: Assessment of their Needs and Mentoring Issues ENMU	Writing Assignments in the Age of AI ENMU – Roswell	Dual Credit: Enrollment, Retention & Success NM HED	AI-Assisted Grading: Implications for Student Learning and Academic Integrity ENMU	The Five Pursuits in Practice: A protocol for Retention NM Highlands	The Assessment Training Series: Building Faculty Confidence, Clarity, and Connection Clovis Community College	Exploratory Research as an Effective Pedagogical Tool at Two-Year College Institutions: Reaching Learning Objectives for the Biotechnology Courses via Class-embedded Cancer Research Project UNM – Valencia	A 3-2-1 Approach to Formative and Summative Assessment to engage students in their learning. UNM – Valencia	Winning the G.A.M.E. within the G.A.M.E - Academic Excellence, Retention and Graduation Success! NMSU	Designing TABE Driven Outcomes for Adult ESL Learners: What Happens When Educators Take the Test Too The Albuquerque Adult Learning Center	Tradeoffs between Institutional Mission and Legal Risks NM Tech
Session 2	2:15 PM – 3:00 PM	Course Mapping + AI Analytics for Retention: A Digital Sovereignty Approach DACC	Best Practices with Intentional Dual Credit and High School-Based Instruction San Juan Community College & Others	The Impact of Online Courses in the Sport and Recreation Management Program on Students' Learning and Careers ENMU	An Online Framework for New Mexico Learners UNM	Fostering Engagement and Critical Analysis with Student-Led AI Creation and Peer Competition NMSU	Leveraging IET Services and GRO Funding for Student Success in CDL Truck Driving UNM – Taos	Program-level Assessment at a Community College: Four Missteps that Can Be Easily Corrected UNM – Valencia	Community Events and Academic Motivation: Exploring the Impact of the Campus Event on Student Engagement ENMU	Audit to Action: Preparing Transformative School Leaders Through Equity Audit Assessments ENMU	Cultural-based Visual Learning - Making Learning More Accessible and Assessable SIPI & Carl Albert State College	Supply Chain Management: How Do We Assess This Curriculum? Business or STEM? Or Both? NM Highlands
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM — BREAK												
Session 3	3:30 PM – 4:15 PM	Adult Education to Higher Education: Partnerships and Outcomes NM HED & UNM	Identifying Systems Thinking Through Concept Maps - A roundtable exploration of student connections within and across systems SENM	Student Retention Strategies in the Jetson Classroom" ENMU	Ways of Knowing and Higher Education: Implications for Teaching and Assessment Duquesne University	Using the Early Childhood Career Lattice to Support Student Retention and Program Alignment UNM	Microlearning as a Catalyst for Student Retention: Embedding Skills-Based Modules and Digital Credentials to Strengthen Persistence and Success NMSU Global	Assessing the Impact of a Multi-Phase Initiative to Support Innovative STEM Practices in K-12 Classrooms NMSU	Fostering Compassionate Learning Strategies DACC	Planning Ahead for the HLC Assurance Argument NMSU	Embedding and Assessing Employability Skills in College Courses ENMU	Academics and Beyond: Multi-dimensional Success Measures for Parenting Students Santa Fe Community College

Schedule At-a-glance

Thursday Afternoon, Sessions 4-5

Session	Time	Cimarron	Las Cruces	Santa Fe	Salons G & H	Carlsbad	Salons I & J	Sandia	Pecos	Salons C & D	Salons A & B	Acoma
Session 4	4:30 PM – 5:15 PM	Beyond the Classroom: Faculty Perspectives on Assessing Students' Motivation and Leadership ENMU	What Students Are Actually Saying: Turning Real-Time Feedback Into Retention Action EdSights Vendor	Rising Eagles Dual Enrollment (REDE) Program NMSU Grants & Dual Credit Students	Using Performance Indicators to Assess NMHED General Education Essential Skills SENM	A Community-Engaged Fellowship Model in Social Work Education NMSU	Weekly Reflective Journaling Enhances New Teachers' Practice: The Impetus to Become "Intentional Teachers Rather Than Accidental Teachers" ENMU	Measuring What Matters: Student Voice in Faculty Development NMJC	Community Starts here: Using Group Work to Build Classroom Community DACC	Connecting Basic Needs Insecurity Data to Retention UNM	The Assessment of a Universities Functioning ENMU	
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM – Poster Session Conference Foyer												
Session 5	5:30 PM – 6:15 PM	Developing an Assessment Framework to foster a culture of assessment UNM	Building a Comprehensive Assessment Framework: Luna's HLC Assessment Academy Project Luna Community College	Untangling Compliance: State Authorization and Professional Licensure in Distance Education UNM		Program Assessment – A Two-Pronged Approach DACC	Formal Processes for Supporting Teacher Candidates Who Struggle UNM		Embedding Research for Retention: How the ECURE Framework Transforms Student Success UNM	The Assessment of Introductory and General Chemistry Teaching at Southeast New Mexico College SENM	The Impact of Technology-Based Interventions on Cognitive Impairment in Patients with Dementia and Elderly: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis ENMU	Assessment and Community Building Strategies for Retention in Higher Education: Approaches Informed by NMAMP NMSU
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Conference Reception Conference Foyer												

Schedule At-a-glance

Friday Morning, Sessions 6-7 and NM HED Town Hall

Session	Time	Cimarron	Las Cruces	Santa Fe	Salons G & H	Carlsbad	Salons I & J	Sandia	Pecos	Salons C & D	Salons A & B	Acoma
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM – CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST Salons E & F												
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM — New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association Meeting – OPEN TO ALL Pecos												
Session 6	9:00 AM – 9:45 AM	NM State Authorization Network (SAN) Summit NM HED	New Mexico Dual Credit Partnerships (NMDCP) Meeting NMDCP	Annual Meeting for NMAIRP NM AIR	Compassionate Learning: Supporting Growth, Engagement, and Confidence DACC	As Technologies Fuse, Engaged Cross-Trained Instructions Engage Students for Retention NMSU Grants	Assessment of a Teacher Education Program: What are the Variables? ENMU	Cultivating Local Solutions: Expanding the Feed the Hounds Initiative to tackle Food Insecurity and Promote Student and Community Engagement ENMU	Navigating our POLLEN Success: Assessment in Transformational Leadership UNM	Stickybones for Biomechanics ENMU	NMHED GE Essential Skills: Integrating Personal & Social Responsibility in STEM UNM	Retain, Retrain, and Rise: AI Tools that Keep Students Learning and Earning Roswell Independent School District/SOAR Innovations
Session 7	10:00 AM – 10:45 AM	A Statewide Assessment of STEM Retention Trends for Women of Color NMSU	Promoting the College Promise: Assessing Dual Credit Student Thriving San Juan College	NMHED Essential Skills: UNM's Implementation and Insights UNM	Evaluating faculty performance: Building a culture of fairness, transparency and belonging NMSU	Faculty as Change Agents: Building Emotional Resonance and Retention through Curriculum Design ENMU	The Impact of Reflective Instruction with Technology Application on Skill Development in College Athletic Training Course: A Pilot Study ENMU	Strengthening Quality Assurance System through CAEP: Assessment, Analysis, and Action WNMU	Microcredentials That Matter: How a Shared Strategy Strengthens Retention, Expands Pathways, and Builds Institutional Partnerships NMSU Global	Who Wrote This? Faculty Identification of AI in Student Writing Samples ENMU	Creating and Identifying Success in Workforce Development at San Juan College: Innovation + Leadership San Juan College	Data Storytelling for Retention: How Data Visualization Informs Decision-Making Across Campus UNM
11:00 AM – 11:45 AM — Town Hall with members of New Mexico Higher Education Department (NM HED) Salons E & F												

Session Descriptions

Pre-Conference Workshops: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Room: Sandia

Title: **NM State Dual Credit Meeting**
Dual Credit Focus

Presenters: Jody Weber, Education Administrator, New Mexico Higher Education Department
Marc Duske, Special Projects Manager, New Mexico Public Education Department

Time: 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Abstract: Attendees will have the opportunity to communicate with both NMPED and NMHED representatives regarding the future direction of dual credit in the state of New Mexico. This is an opportunity for secondary, post-secondary, counselors, administrators, academic advisors, program coordinators, faculty and all other constituents working with the dual credit population to meet and discuss best practices for dual credit programs.

Room: Pecos

Title: **Building, Growing, and Sustaining Non-Credit Workforce Training Programs in New Mexico**

Presenters: Steve Saucedo, Vice President of Workforce Development, New Mexico Junior College
Laura Beer, Associate Director for Workforce Development, San Juan College
Joy Forehand, Vice President of Workforce and Community Success, Central New Mexico Community College
Amber Gallup, Director of Adult Education Division, New Mexico Higher Education Department
Facilitated by Todd DeKay, Eastern New Mexico University, and Laura Grant, New Mexico State University

Time: 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Abstract: Non-credit workforce training plays a critical role in meeting New Mexico's evolving labor-market needs, supporting adult learners, and responding quickly to employer demand. This pre-conference session brings together leading practitioners from New Mexico Junior College, San Juan College, Central New Mexico Community College, and the New Mexico Adult Education Office to share effective models, challenges, and lessons learned in delivering high-impact non-credit workforce programs.

The session will feature short institutional presentations followed by a panel reflection and a facilitated discussion focused on strengthening coordination, sustainability, and outcomes across New Mexico's non-credit workforce ecosystem. Participants will engage in dialogue around funding strategies, employer engagement, pathways to credentials and credit, data and accountability, and opportunities for statewide collaboration. Attendees will leave with practical insights and actionable ideas to improve non-credit workforce training and alignment across New Mexico's colleges and adult education systems.

Keynote & Lunch: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

Room: Salons E & F

Title: **Why Emotionally Intelligent Approaches to Assessment Matter for the Story of New Mexico's Students**

Presenters: Dr. Gwen Perea Warniment, President & CEO of the Los Alamos National Labs Foundation

Time: 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

Abstract: At the intersections of brain science, sociocultural learning theory, and assessment lies a profound gem -- how we receive and give feedback is fundamental to our ability to transition into critical, lifelong learners. When assessment is tangible and humanistic, it enables both students and educators to both meaningfully grow. This ability to move through an essential form of natural conflict is a fundamental lever to improve the public education system. However, beyond the system, this ability to understand, discern, and navigate the varying stories that assessment tell us are vital to how we embrace our own potential — educators, students, and families alike.

Bio: Gwen Perea Warniment is the President & CEO for the LANL Foundation. Born, raised, and committed to the State of New Mexico, she is an advocate of education at all levels. Gwen brings over two decades of experience in education, policy, and leadership, ranging from working in school districts, to universities, nonprofits, and state government. Dr. Perea Warniment was selected to lead the LANL Foundation after having served as Director of the influential Legislative Education Study Committee, responsible for advising education policy statewide. Previously, she served as Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment at the New Mexico Public Education Department where she directed a budget of more than \$100 million, oversaw the statewide literacy initiative, student assessment system, college and career readiness initiatives, and development of strategies to build the educator workforce.

Perea Warniment holds a Ph.D. from New Mexico State University, a master's degree from New Mexico Highlands University, and bachelor's degrees from the University of New Mexico. Passionate about local vitality, she is often found volunteering at the Santa Fe Farmer's Market on Saturdays or escaping to the mountains, especially during ski season with her marvelous kids when they happen to be home from college.



Session Descriptions

Session One: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

Room: Cimarron

Title: **First Year Faculty and International Faculty: Assessment of their Needs and Mentoring Issues**
Culturally Responsive Leadership

Presenters: Michael Shaughnessy, Eastern New Mexico University
Mark Viner, Eastern New Mexico University
Yetta Massey, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

Abstract: Two singular groups that deserve attention are first-year faculty who go through extensive orientation to the institution. Their concerns and anxieties deserve attention and their beliefs as to their need for mentoring and ongoing assistance is assessed and evaluated. The second group of faculty who may be both first-year and international are also examined. For many international faculty there are multiple concerns- language and the culture of the university. This second group will be examined.

Room: Las Cruces

Title: **Writing Assignments in the Age of AI**
Artificial Intelligence

Presenters: Kyle Torke, Eastern New Mexico University – Roswell

Time: 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

Abstract: To build skills, encourage original thought, and reinforce critical thinking habits while also being AI-unfriendly, we can re-imagine what we ask our students to produce. We should move on from simple prompts and re-think our goal for each assignment. Transparent assignments that are detail rich, story-heavy, multi-modal, and reflective inspire students to engage with material by creating an asymmetrical learning environment. Write smarter assignments and measure student progress, not AI's.

Room: Santa Fe

Title: **Dual Credit: Enrollment, Retention & Success**
Dual Credit and Early College

Presenters: Mark Chisholm, New Mexico Higher Education Department
Jody Weber, New Mexico Higher Education Department
Brit Gallegos, New Mexico Higher Education Department
Dina Advani, New Mexico Higher Education Department

Time: 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

Abstract: The NMHED will present an initial study examining dual credit enrollment, retention, and student success across New Mexico's HEIs. The session will also highlight national data and best practices that promote student engagement strengthening the connection between high school and the attainment of a college degree or credential.

Session Descriptions

Session One: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

- Room:** Salons G & H
- Title:** **AI-Assisted Grading: Implications for Student Learning and Academic Integrity**
Artificial Intelligence
- Presenters:** Armit Thapa, Eastern New Mexico University
Johannes Addido, Eastern New Mexico University
- Time:** 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM
- Abstract:** Students and faculty increasingly express frustration, anxiety, or excitement about the use of AI in academic grading. While AI can improve efficiency and provide nuanced feedback, it may also reduce personalization and result in unfair grading. Both faculty and students face concerns about oversight and misuse. As AI becomes inevitable, finding the right balance is essential. This session invites open discourse on these issues.
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- Room:** Carlsbad
- Title:** **The Five Pursuits in Practice: A protocol for Retention**
Student Retention and Success Metrics
- Presenters:** Debbie Deneen, New Mexico Highlands University
- Time:** 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM
- Abstract:** Teacher and student retention improve when classrooms foster engagement, relevance, and belonging. This session highlights how integrating Gholdy Muhammad's (2023) five pursuits cultivates these conditions in diverse settings. Attendees will examine evidence of retention gains and consider strategies to create supportive learning environments that sustain both students and educators over time.
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- Room:** Salon I & J
- Title:** **The Assessment Training Series: Building Faculty Confidence, Clarity, and Connection**
- Presenters:** Melissa Reed

, Clovis Community College
Vicki Bridinger-De Leon, Clovis Community College
- Time:** 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM
- Abstract:** Clovis Community College's Assessment Training Series transforms assessment from a checklist into a catalyst for purpose. Through four scaffolded sessions, faculty connect assessment to the college's mission, vision, and values while gaining confidence, clarity, and community. The result? Assessment that's not just done-but felt, understood, and used to drive real improvement.

Session Descriptions

Session One: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

- Room:** Sandia
- Title:** **Exploratory Research as an Effective Pedagogical Tool at Two-Year College Institutions: Reaching Learning Objectives for the Biotechnology Courses via Class-embedded Cancer Research Project**
Student Retention and Success Metrics
- Presenters:** Piotr Fillipczak, The University of New Mexico – Valencia
- Time:** 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM
- Abstract:** Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) can provide more students access to research, including those from rural areas, who might not typically have the chance to participate in novel research. Cancer research-based CURE described in this presentation was developed at the University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus, a rural 2-year institution. It was embedded into the curricula of two Medical Biotechnology courses (Biol 2710 and Biol 2715) conducted as a sequence.
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- Room:** Pecos
- Title:** **A 3-2-1 Approach to Formative and Summative Assessment to engage students in their learning**
- Presenters:** Julia Wai-Yin So, The University of New Mexico – Valencia
- Time:** 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM
- Abstract:** Responding to recent years' ungrading movement and the common uses of AI platforms, the presenter will share the aligned formative and summative assessment tools of her own. Designed to also engage students in their learning, both tools are based on the concept of Angelo and Cross' 3-2-1 approach to learning.
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- Room:** Salons C & D
- Title:** **Winning the G.A.M.E. within the G.A.M.E - Academic Excellence, Retention and Graduation Success!**
Student Retention and Success Metrics
- Presenters:** James Hall, New Mexico State University
- Time:** 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM
- Abstract:** A tiered E.A.C.H. One Teach One academic system leverages quantitative research, best practices, and longitudinal studies to advance student and student-athlete retention and achievement, incorporating noncognitive variables, emotional intelligence, and early warning systems through strategic campus partnerships and learning style alignment to drive measurable persistence outcomes.

Session Descriptions

Session One: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

Room: Salons A & B

Title: **Designing TABE Driven Outcomes for Adult ESL Learners: What Happens When Educators Take the Test Too**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Zahra Bundrage, The Albuquerque Adult Learning Center
Kiernan Canterjiani, The Albuquerque Adult Learning Center
Linda Koski, The Albuquerque Adult Learning Center
Alejandro Pineda, The Albuquerque Adult Learning Center

Time: 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

Abstract: This session shares how instructors at the Albuquerque Adult Learning Center (AALC) took the TABE locator, reading, writing, and speaking tests to better understand student challenges. While data will be collected after the Spring Session 2026, we anticipate improved measurable skill gains, persistence, and confidence through TABE driven ESL instruction.

Room: Acoma

Title: **Tradeoffs between Institutional Mission and Legal Risks**
Culturally Responsive Leadership

Presenters: Taffeta Elliott, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Time: 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

Abstract: Legal risk trades off against mission-driven rewards for colleges when law on DEI is unsettled. Institutions legally set their own missions. Retention strategy can prioritize removing barriers for all students within a service region, while demonstrating authenticity. Effective narratives articulate that increasing access promotes "fairness". Innovation connects practices to evidence.

Session Descriptions

Session Two: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Room: Cimarron

Title: **Course Mapping + AI Analytics for Retention: A Digital Sovereignty Approach**
Artificial Intelligence

Presenters: Gus Piña, Doña Ana Community College
Juan Martinez, Doña Ana Community College

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Abstract: Learn how course maps and AI-assisted assessment analysis can reveal workload and alignment issues—and how digital sovereignty (community agency over educational data use and protection) can guide more equitable improvements. Attendees leave with templates, sample prompts, and a practical blueprint for redesigning assessments to better support retention.

Room: Las Cruces

Title: **Best Practices with Intentional Dual Credit and High School-Based Instruction**
Dual Credit and Early College

Presenters: Annie Willmon, San Juan College
Rocky Torres, Farmington High School
Catherine Olson, Aztec Municipal Schools
Andrea Ericksen, San Juan College

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Abstract: This session explores intentional Dual Credit implementation through New Mexico best-practice models. Presenters highlight strong college-high school partnerships, aligned communication systems, and dedicated student supports. Examples from high school administrators and a college professor demonstrate how structured processes, collaborative teaching, and intentional scheduling expand equitable pathways to college credentials with implications for assessment of high school-based instruction.

Room: Santa Fe

Title: **The Impact of Online Courses in the Sport and Recreation Management Program on Students' Learning and Careers**
Artificial Intelligence

Presenters: Richard Guerra, Eastern New Mexico University
Hyokju Maeng, Eastern New Mexico University
Hyunjin Kwon, Eastern New Mexico University
Kalynn Baldock, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact that an online course can have on graduate and undergraduate students who take the online course that teaches students the strategies and tactics to get hired in the sports industry. Participants will be invited to complete an anonymous online survey of their learning experiences, satisfaction, and outcomes from the online course. This study will examine how online programs influence students' learning and their career progress.

Session Descriptions

Session Two: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Room: Salons G & H

Title: **An Online Framework for New Mexico Learners**

Presenters: Stephanie Spong, University of New Mexico
Beth Giebus Chanvez, University of New Mexico
Carla Passos-Morgan, University of New Mexico
Magdalena Vázquez Dathe, University of New Mexico
Ari McGuirk, University of New Mexico

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Abstract: Online learning quality assurance models are ubiquitous, but few target the populations we serve in New Mexico. After 18 months of research, needs assessments, and user testing, collaborators at UNM launched an online quality assurance framework grounded in the needs of New Mexico learners and educators. This presentation will detail the collaborative development work and subsequent preparation for course peer review processes. All materials will be made publicly available for future use.

Room: Carlsbad

Title: **Fostering Engagement and Critical Analysis with Student-Led AI Creation and Peer Competition**
Artificial Intelligence

Presenters: Ayman Alzaid, New Mexico State University

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Abstract: This presentation explores teaching strategies using student-led AI creation and peer competition. We will demonstrate how these activities boost engagement and provide a dynamic method for assessing student learning, offering immediate feedback and valuable insights into comprehension to support classroom retention and success.

Room: Salons I & J

Title: **Leveraging IET Services and GRO Funding for Student Success in CDL Truck Driving**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Elizabeth Campbell, University of New Mexico – Taos
Kylee Shipp, University of New Mexico – Taos
Kristin Cowan, University of New Mexico – Taos
Amos Chávez, University of New Mexico – Taos

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Abstract: Rev up with us as we show how improved assessment practice, strategic IET supports, and targeted NMHED funding turbo-charged retention, completion, and job placement in the UNM-Taos CDL program-proving rural career pathways can shift gears fast when equity, innovation, and community need drive the route.

Session Descriptions

Session Two: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Room: Sandia

Title: **Program-level Assessment at a Community College: Four Missteps that Can Be Easily Corrected**

Presenters: Julia Wai-Yin So, University of New Mexico – Valencia

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Abstract: Focusing on the four common missteps of program assessment and reporting, the presenter will provide suggestions on how to correct them. The missteps are ambiguous program goals, measurement error of program goals and outcomes, incorrect unit of analysis in reporting, and selection error of the populations assessed.

Room: Pecos

Title: **Community Events and Academic Motivation: Exploring the Impact of the Campus Event on Student Engagement**

Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Jihyun Woo, Eastern New Mexico University
Kalynn Baldock, Eastern New Mexico University
Aiden Juge, Eastern New Mexico University
Anuoluwapo Ogunleye, Eastern New Mexico University
Lisa Campbell, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Abstract: Campus and community events play a meaningful role in promoting student success beyond the classroom. This session examines how participation in a campus event influences students' sense of belonging, well-being, and academic motivation. The presentation highlights connections between inclusive event design and students' expectations for achievement and persistence. Participants will gain insights into aligning engagement initiatives with institutional goals for student retention and success.

Room: Salons C & D

Title: **Audit to Action: Preparing Transformative School Leaders Through Equity Audit Assessments**
Culturally Responsive Leadership

Presenters: Selenda Cumby, Eastern New Mexico University
Emily Clark, Graduate Student, Eastern New Mexico University
D.A. Kerg, Graduate Student, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Abstract: Equity audits provide a formative assessment for initiating critical conversations about equity by examining disaggregated data, interpreting findings, and collaboratively developing solutions that promote inclusive practices and systemic change. This research utilizes the integration of equity audits into an 11-month, job-embedded internship for principal interns, bridging theory and practice through a dynamic school-university partnership.

Session Descriptions

Session Two: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Room: Salons A & B

Title: **Cultural-based Visual Learning – Making Learning More Accessible and Assessable**

Presenters: Edward Hummingbird, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
Samantha Piper, Carl Albert State College

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Abstract: Using cultural objects to contextualize learning in trickier parts of the curriculum can make learning more accessible to students who traditionally struggle. Visual, or object-based learning can shift learning from the cognitive domain into the affective and psychomotor domains, resulting in a richer learning experience. At the same time, visual learning projects can produce some of the most beautiful, lowest-hanging fruit for the assessment of student learning.

Room: Acoma

Title: **Supply Chain Management: How Do We Assess This Curriculum? Business or STEM? Or Both?**

Presenters: Joseph Milczewski, New Mexico Highlands University

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Abstract: With the recent issues with the supply chain, supply chain curriculums are being developed at an increased pace at universities globally. The curriculums are made available through business departments though they have been categorized as a STEM curriculum also. Assessments may require a combination of outcome assessments related to both.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY & BREAK

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Conference Foyer

Snacks will be provided in the conference foyer!

Session Descriptions

Session Three: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Room: Cimmaron

Title: **Adult Education to Higher Education: Partnerships and Outcomes**

Presenters: Amber Gallup, New Mexico Higher Education Department
Cash Clifton, University of New Mexico

Time: 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Abstract: Bachelor's degree attainment for High School Equivalency (HSE) graduates has increased 10-fold at UNM in the past 20 years! We will discuss New Mexico collaborations bridging Adult Ed to Higher Ed. Join us as we dive into the data, chat about lessons learned, and what we plan next.

Room: Las Cruces

Title: **Identifying Systems Thinking Through Concept Maps – A roundtable exploration of student connections within and across systems**

Presenters: Narmin Ghalichi, Southeast New Mexico College

Time: 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Abstract: This session explores how students represent system structure through concept maps. Using maps from a systems-oriented high school science curriculum, participants examine connections students make within and across systems. The work introduces the Systems Matter Framework, developed from recurring connection patterns, and shows how focusing on relationships reveals growth in systems thinking and supports formative assessment.

Room: Santa Fe

Title: **Student Retention Strategies in the Jetson Classroom**
Artificial Intelligence

Presenters: Presley Shilling, Eastern New Mexico University
Tsitsi Nyabando, Eastern New Mexico University
Kathleen Wagner, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Abstract: Video conferencing enables distance education students to participate synchronously, fostering a more inclusive learning environment. However, sustaining student focus and engagement can be challenging. Through intentional instructional practices, faculty can deepen interaction and support student success in synchronous video-based courses, ultimately improving academic retention across diverse learners.

Session Descriptions

Session Three: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Room: Salons G & H

Title: **Ways of Knowing and Higher Education: Implications for Teaching and Assessment**
Culturally Responsive Leadership

Presenters: Russ Walsh, Duquesne University

Time: 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Abstract: This presentation will address the importance of "ways of knowing" and their relevance for higher education assessment and retention. Drawing upon his research with First Nations Peoples in Canada, the presenter will discuss guiding principles that can inform academic practices that affirm and facilitate diverse ways of knowing in teaching and the assessment of student learning. Examples of teaching and assessment along these lines will be discussed.

Room: Carlsbad

Title: **Using the Early Childhood Career Lattice to Support Student Retention and Program Alignment**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Chelsea Morris, University of New Mexico
Pam Remstein, University of New Mexico
Danielle Lansing, University of New Mexico
Tenasha Betoni, University of New Mexico
Jackie Shipley, University of New Mexico

Time: 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Abstract: New Mexico's early childhood career lattice creates clear, aligned, articulated pathways across programs through shared competencies, course objectives, and field experience structures. This session highlights how the articulated system strengthens student retention by reducing transfer barriers, supporting consistent advising, and helping programs assess progression across institutions.

Room: Salons I & J

Title: **Microlearning as a Catalyst for Student Retention: Embedding Skills-Based Modules and Digital Credentials to Strengthen Persistence and Success**
Artificial Intelligence

Presenters: Erika Genty, NMSU Global

Time: 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Abstract: Microlearning strengthens student retention by closing skill gaps, boosting confidence, and creating quick wins that build momentum. This session demonstrates how embedded, mobile-friendly modules and digital badges support persistence, improve performance, and align learning with workforce needs. Participants will experience Microlearning firsthand and leave with practical implementation strategies.

Session Descriptions

Session Three: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

- Room:** Sandia
- Title:** **Assessing the Impact of a Multi-Phase Initiative to Support Innovative STEM Practices in K-12 Classrooms**
Dual Credit and Early College
- Presenters:** Suparna Chatterjee, New Mexico State University
Rigesh Krishnaraj, New Mexico State University
Sumanth Nandhikonda, New Mexico State University
- Time:** 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM
- Abstract:** This research evaluates a multi-phase initiative: district partnerships, Professional Development, and implementation support, to advance STEM practices such as additive manufacturing in K12 classrooms. Findings show partnerships improved recruitment, PD strengthened teachers' implementation skills (80% ready to implement), and 50% implementation in the first year. It offered guidance for evidence-based revisions to improve the efficacy of the multi-phase process for greater future impact.
- Room:** Pecos
- Title:** **Fostering Compassionate Learning Strategies**
Culturally Responsive Leadership
- Presenters:** Sean Kardar, Doña Ana Community College
James Cadena, Doña Ana Community College
Bethuel Khamala, Doña Ana Community College
Mychael Smith, Doña Ana Community College
- Time:** 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM
- Abstract:** Academic learning is constrained by life events that create stress and overlap with competing roles. These challenges can weaken learners' focus and motivation. Learners balance identities such as parent, caregiver, or financial provider. A compassionate educational community recognizes these barriers and acts responsively to support students in sustaining their learning goals. Join the DACC Assessment Committee to explore compassionate pedagogy that strengthens student success and retention.
- Room:** Salons C & D
- Title:** **Planning Ahead for the HLC Assurance Argument**
Presentation continues work started at the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association Summer Retreat.
- Presenters:** Cecilia Hernandez, New Mexico State University
Ryan Goss, New Mexico State University
- Time:** 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM
- Abstract:** Planning ahead in preparation for completing an accreditation assurance argument and site visit is vital. As part of the Higher Learning Commission Assurance Argument planning process, the lead writing team members and the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness met during the NMHEAA Summer Retreat to plan for writing and evidence gathering. This work resulted in a more coherent outline and solid timeline for completing the assurance argument document.

Session Descriptions

Session Three: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Room: Salons A & B

Title: **Embedding and Assessing Employability Skills in College Courses**

Presenters: Jihyun Woo, Eastern New Mexico University
Julia Azih, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Abstract: Employability skills are crucial for preparing students to succeed in a rapidly evolving and competitive workforce. This session identifies key employability skills demanded by industries and explores how educators can embed and assess them through college courses aligned with the modernized career clusters. Focusing on current workforce expectations, the session highlights effective strategies for integrating and evaluating these skills within course design and assessment practices.

Room: Acoma

Title: **Academics and Beyond: Multidimensional Success Measures for Parenting Students**

Presenters: Rachel Kutcher, Santa Fe Community College
Karen Stornelli, Santa Fe Community College
Nicole Ortiz, Santa Fe Community College

Time: 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Abstract: The Student Parent Success Program at SFCC boasts a year-to-year college retention rate of 84% compared to 47% for all student parents. While student parents want to graduate and attain better employment, they hold many additional ideas about college success such as in their parenting, personal growth, and impact on their children and community. In this session we'll discuss academic and non-academic program evaluation measures, evaluation challenges, and explore harder to quantify successes.

Session Descriptions

Session Four: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

- Room:** Cimarron
- Title:** **Beyond the Classroom: Faculty Perspectives on Assessing Students' Motivation and Leadership**
- Presenters:** Hyunjin Kwon, Eastern New Mexico University
Richard Guerra, Eastern New Mexico University
Shyanne Jordan, Eastern New Mexico University
Hyokju Maeng, Eastern New Mexico University
- Time:** 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM
- Abstract:** Faculty are increasingly recognizing that authentic learning extends beyond academic achievement to encompass motivation, leadership, and civic responsibility. This session explores how instructors incorporate community-based campus events into their teaching and assessment, illustrating how participation in events, volunteer leadership, and reflective activities can be integral components of student development. Attendees will gain practical strategies for assessing engagement-based learning.
-
- Room:** Las Cruces
- Title:** **What Students Are Actually Saying: Turning Real-Time Feedback Into Retention Action**
Vendor
- Presenters:** Patrick Hertz, EdSights
- Time:** 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM
- Abstract:** In an era when institutions are navigating rapid change and mounting demands for equity, retention, and student success, gaining a deeper understanding of the student experience is essential. This session shares actionable insights from large-scale student feedback data that illuminate key trends in engagement, barriers to persistence, and early indicators of risk — all grounded in real student voice.
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- Room:** Santa Fe
- Title:** **Rising Eagles Dual Enrollment (REDE) Program**
Dual Credit and Early College
- Presenters:** Shawn Secatero, New Mexico State University Grants
Deana Armijo, New Mexico State University Grants
Jennifer Black, New Mexico State University Grants
Teo Carroll, Frankie Gould, Tydas Yazzie, Victoria Apachito, Michaelyn Begaye, and Uria Manning, Dual Credit Students
- Time:** 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM
- Abstract:** Few studies exist in regards to assessment and retention factors of Native American dual enrollment students in the State of New Mexico. Our workshop will feature the Rising Eagles Dual Enrollment (REDE) Program that honors a unique partnership between To'hajiilee High School and New Mexico State University Grants. We will share our promising practices, strengths, and challenges. Also, current dual credit students will share their perspectives, course experiences, tips, and film clips.

Session Descriptions

Session Four: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

Room: Salons G & H
Title: **Using Performance Indicators to Assess NMHED General Education Essential Skills**
Presenters: Patricia Zane Biebelle, Southeast New Mexico College
Time: 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM
Abstract: This presentation/workshop hybrid will introduce audience members to the use of performance indicators to assess the NM HED General Education Essential Skills. The first half of the presentation will be devoted to explaining performance indicators and sharing Southeast New Mexico College's experience with devising them. The second half will allow audience members to work in groups to create performance indicators for a component skill of NM HED's Critical Thinking Essential Skills.

Room: Carlsbad
Title: **A Community-Engaged Fellowship Model in Social Work Education**
Culturally Responsive Leadership
Presenters: Angelina Valdespino, New Mexico State University
Chelsea Alcantara, New Mexico State University
Abigail Gutierrez Macias, New Mexico State University
Shane Caballero, New Mexico State University
Time: 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM
Abstract: This session introduces a student-led, community-engaged fellowship developed by the Diversity & Social Justice Committee in the School of Social Work at New Mexico State University. The fellowship integrates culturally responsive practice, leadership development, and professional identity formation through values-based mentorship and reflective practice.

Room: Salons I & J
Title: **Weekly Reflective Journaling Enhances New Teachers' Practice: The Impetus to Become "Intentional Teachers Rather Than Accidental Teachers"**
Student Retention and Success Metrics
Presenters: Mary Daughrity, Eastern New Mexico University
Time: 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM
Abstract: New teachers can benefit from weekly reflective journaling as documented by this action research study. The Practicum Journal, implemented in a graduate course, allowed new teachers to reflect on their current situations with classroom management, assessment, planning lessons, instruction, questioning and discourse, and technology use. Results of the study, stated in the new teachers' own words, allows the audience to understand their unique views about reflective journaling as a retention tool.

Session Descriptions

Session Four: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

Room: Sandia

Title: **Measuring What Matters: Student Voice in Faculty Development**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Stephanie Ferguson, New Mexico Junior College
Dianne Marquez, New Mexico Junior College
William Brown, New Mexico Junior College

Time: 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

Abstract: This session highlights NMJC's Quality Initiative using student voice to enhance faculty development for improved student engagement and success. From 2022-2024, NMJC used a data-informed, collaborative approach to faculty development, deploying targeted strategies and measuring their impact. Learn how intentional development, support, and shared governance transformed teaching and learning environments.

Room: Pecos

Title: **Community Starts Here: Using Group Work to Build Classroom Community**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Mayra Valadez, Doña Ana Community College

Time: 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

Abstract: Explore how intentional group assignments can boost student retention and achievement in face-to-face courses. This session shares practical tools for designing group assignments that build community and promote stronger student outcomes.

Room: Salons C & D

Title: **Connecting Basic Needs Insecurity Data to Retention**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Sarita Cargas, University of New Mexico

Time: 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

Abstract: Our presentation will connect basic needs insecurity data among New Mexico college students and retention data. We will share the research findings on the prevalence of food and housing insecurity and show how needs insecure students are negatively affected academically. Further, we will provide return on investment data suggesting that more investment in student wellness will lead to higher graduation rates.

Session Descriptions

Session Four: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

Room: Salons A & B

Title: **The Assessment of a Universities Functioning**

Presenters: Michael Shaughnessy, Eastern New Mexico University
Mark Viner, Eastern New Mexico University
John Petrone, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

Abstract: The global assessment of a university's functioning can take many forms. Some look at graduation rates, others the employment status of graduates. This presentation will review the results of a Qualtrics survey regarding three realms of assessment-meaning/purpose and overall satisfaction. Faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students were all assessed for comparison data and retention data. Implications as to student and faculty satisfaction are linked to the construct of flourishing.

Room: Acoma

Title:

Presenters:

Time: 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

Abstract:

Session Descriptions

Poster Session: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

- Room:** Conference Foyer
- Title:** **From Attrition to Achievement: Leveraging AI to Boost Nursing Student Success**
Artificial Intelligence
- Presenters:** Trevor Love, Doña Ana Community College
Victor Medina, Doña Ana Community College
- Time:** 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM
- Abstract:** This presentation explores how integrating artificial intelligence into nursing education enhances student retention. Through podcasts, interactive websites, mobile apps, and gamified assessments like Kahoot, we demonstrate how AI tools foster engagement, reinforce learning, and provide data-driven insights that support persistence and academic success.
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- Room:** Conference Foyer
- Title:** **Tell Your Story: An Autobiographical Narrative Approach to Student Belonging and Engagement**
Culturally Responsive Leadership
- Presenters:** Kenneth Oravetz, University of New Mexico
Ken Cradock, University of New Mexico
- Time:** 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM
- Abstract:** This poster discusses a personal narrative assignment at University of New Mexico. This new assignment is designed so that instructors may better understand student backgrounds and assess and adjust their pedagogy to increase student belonging and retention. We seek to build on this assignment through further research and distribution.
-
- Room:** Conference Foyer
- Title:** **Proposal to Operationalize Shared Governance – Or Putting the Shared in Shared Governance**
Presentation continues work started at the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association Summer Retreat.
- Presenters:** Kim Lopez Gallagher, New Mexico State University Alamogordo
Christine Trapp, New Mexico State University Alamogordo
James Gallagher, New Mexico State University Alamogordo
- Time:** 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM
- Abstract:** An AAUP Shared Governance Assessment Survey was distributed to NMSU-A Faculty. The results indicated a concern about faculty involvement in campus decision-making. At the 2025 NMHEAR Summer Retreat, we worked on developing two new committee descriptions that we hoped would address that concern. In this poster, we will reveal the committee's descriptions; assess whether we were successful in gaining campus approval for them; and quantitatively assess whether faculty's perceptions have changed.

Session Descriptions

Session Five: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Room: Cimarron

Title: **Developing an Assessment Framework to foster a culture of assessment**
Presentation continues work started at the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association Summer Retreat.

Presenters: Lori Townsend, University of New Mexico
Oliva Baca, University of New Mexico
David Hurley, University of New Mexico

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Abstract: "I don't know where to start!" This is perhaps the biggest barrier to developing a culture where assessment is done routinely and with enthusiasm. Assessment can be intimidating; the literature overwhelming. We used the NMHEAA Summer Retreat to develop an assessment framework to make assessment in the University Libraries-and the assessment team-approachable.

Room: Las Cruces

Title: **Building a Comprehensive Assessment Framework: Luna's HLC Assessment Academy Project**

Presenters: Sierra Fernandez, Luna Community College
Aaron Smith, Luna Community College
Kraig Bellows, Luna Community College
Mary Frances Bibb, Luna Community College
Tycie Jackson, Luna Community College
Henrietta Romero, Luna Community College

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Abstract: To advance student success and evidence-based improvement, Luna Community College is participating in the Higher Learning Commission's Assessment Academy. The college is developing a plan across course, program, general education, and co-curricular areas, integrating tools like Smartsheets and Blackboard to track accountability and evidence, in alignment with HLC's Criterion 3.

Room: Santa Fe

Title: **Untangling Compliance: State Authorization and Professional Licensure in Distance Education**

Presenters: Ashley Campbell, University of New Mexico
Mariciela Romero, University of New Mexico

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Abstract: This session explains how colleges can meet state and federal rules for distance education. Attendees will learn the differences between state authorization and professional licensure, how both connect to NC-SARA and HLC standards, and practical strategies for improving compliance systems and protecting students through transparency and ethical practices.

Session Descriptions

Session Five: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Room: Salons G & H

Title:

Presenters:

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Abstract:

Room: Carlsbad

Title: **Program Assessment – A Two Pronged Approach**

Presentation continues work started at the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association Summer Retreat.

Presenters: Marnie Rocha, Doña Ana Community College
Kathryn Million, Doña Ana Community College
Deborah Parks, Doña Ana Community College
Lynda Cruz-Torres, Doña Ana Community College

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Abstract: Tackling program assessment for two large programs within one department is a significant undertaking. By forming two focused assessment teams, we were able to respond more intentionally to the distinct needs of the DACC Education and Early Childhood programs. During the summer retreat, teams established program learning outcomes, began developing aligned assessments, and revised the mentor teacher evaluation to better support meaningful feedback on practicum student performance. This work is ongoing, with continued efforts to strengthen alignment across programs, ensure assessments meaningfully measure outcomes, and improve how data is captured and used.

Room: Salons I & J

Title: **Formal Processes for Supporting Teacher Candidates Who Struggle**

Presenters: Marjori Krebs, University of New Mexico
Sarah Vogt, University of New Mexico

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Abstract: Participants will learn how the UNM COEHS supports teacher candidates through the "Continuation Policy." This policy supports the assessment of teacher candidates and their retention, so they will successfully finish their teacher preparation programs. Participants will receive a copy of this document to review and incorporate in their programs.

Session Descriptions

Session Five: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Room: Sandia

Title:

Presenters:

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Abstract:

Room: Pecos

Title: **Embedding Research for Retention: How the ECURE Framework Transforms Student Success**

Presenters: K Joseph Ho, University of New Mexico

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Abstract: This presentation explores the Expanded Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experience (ECURE) framework as a scalable strategy to improve student retention. By embedding research elements into diverse courses, ECURE fosters engagement, confidence, and belonging, key factors that close performance gaps and support persistence through graduation.

Room: Salons C & D

Title: **The Assessments of Introductory and General Chemistry at Southeast New Mexico College**

Presenters: Yiqun Huang, Southeast New Mexico College

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Abstract: At Southeast New Mexico College, a third party online platform termed TASK STREAM was utilized to conduct state mandated course learning outcome assessments for introductory and general chemistry I & II courses. The assessment results were analyzed to reveal the bottlenecks that impede the students' learning success, and to guide the corresponding course curriculum modifications. The comments on the currently state mandated course learning outcomes will also be presented.

Session Five: Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Room: Salons A & B

Title: **The Impact of Technology-Based Interventions on Cognitive Impairment in Patients with Dementia and Elderly: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis**
Artificial Intelligence

Presenters: Hyokju Maeng, Eastern New Mexico University
Hyunjin Kwon, Eastern New Mexico University
Richard Guerra, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to examine the impacts of technology-based physical activity programs on the improvement of cognitive function in patients with dementia and the elderly through a systematic literature review and meta-analysis. This study will conduct a literature search from 2015 to 2025 using PRISMA. A systematic review and meta-analysis will be implemented to analyze the interventions and the effect size.

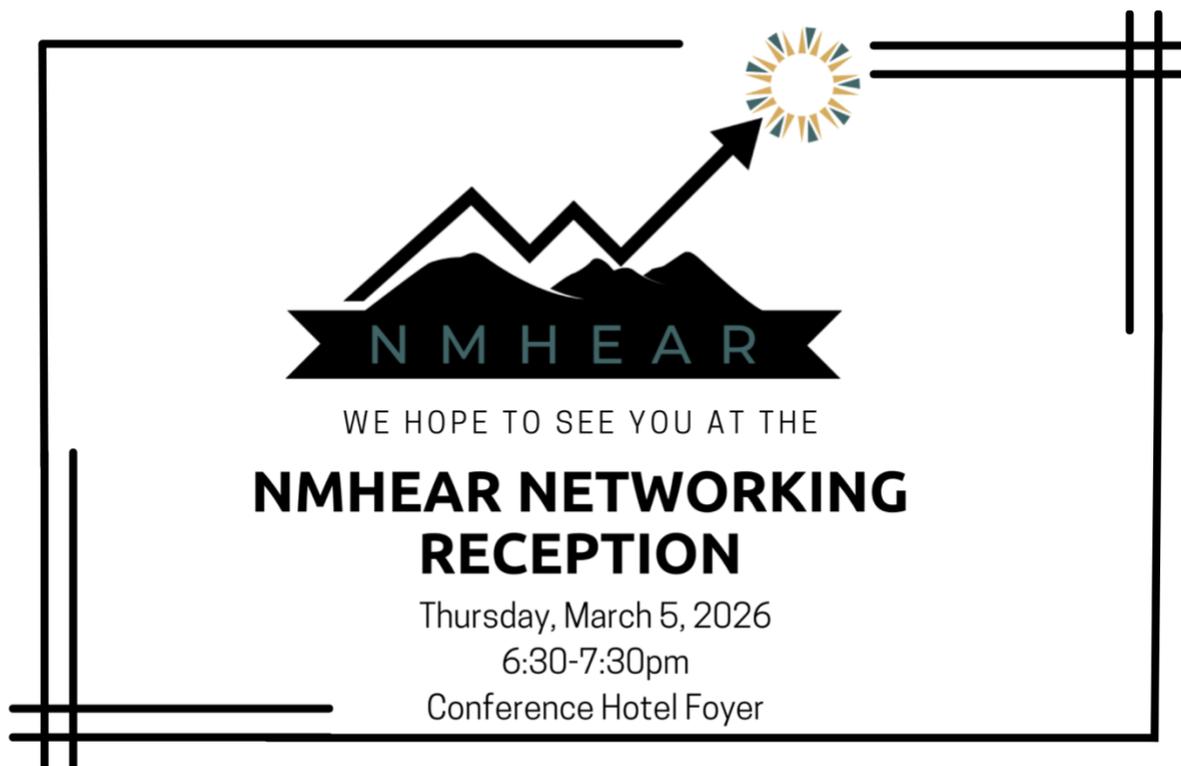
Room: Acoma

Title: **Assessment and Community Building Strategies for Retention in Higher Education: Approaches Informed by NM AMP**

Presenters: Stephanie M. Arnett, New Mexico State University
David G. Ortiz, New Mexico State University

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Abstract: This session shares practical assessment and community building strategies informed by lessons from NM AMP's multi-year research on student success. We discuss how departments can build meaningful assessment practices that improve academic programs and strategies for community building that lead to student support and retention.



Session Descriptions

Friday, March 6, 2026 – 7:30 AM – 8:45 AM

JOIN US FOR CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST!

Salons E & F

Friday, March 6, 2026

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Breakfast is included with your conference registration.

Annual Membership & Board Meeting – Friday, March 6, 2026 – 8:00 AM – 8:45 AM

Room: Pecos

Title: **New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association Meeting – Annual Membership & Board Meeting**

Board Members: William Brown (President), Todd DeKay (Conference Director), Carley Casey (Executive Secretary), Laura Grant (Retreat Director), Cris Watson (Financial and Registration Director)

Time: 8:00 AM – 8:45 AM

Abstract: Annual meeting of the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association, Inc. Items for consideration and/or action include discussion of statewide assessment issues, the NMHEAA board updates, and election of the President-Elect.

Meeting is open to the public – all are welcome!

The advertisement features the Slate Group logo at the top, which consists of a stylized 'SG' monogram above the text 'slate group' and the tagline 'think big, print big'. Below the logo, the main headline reads 'A printer for all your' in green, followed by a list of services: 'Brochures - Mailers - Publications - Mailing Boxes - Books - Catalogs - Embroidery Screen Printing - Banners Promotional Products' in white. The word 'NEEDS and MORE!' is written in large green letters at the bottom of the list. A collage of images shows various printed items: a brochure with 'UNITING PASSION' and '10 YEARS', a white football with 'UTPB', a green and white embroidered button, a Texas A&M Victoria logo, a white tote bag with 'TSC', a blue and white graphic, a yellow and white brochure, and a poster with 'EVERGREEN' and a globe. At the bottom, the website 'slategroup.com' and phone number '806.794.7752' are listed, along with social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

Session Descriptions

Session Six: Friday, March 6, 2026 – 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Room: Cimarron

Title: **NM State Authorization Network (SAN) Summit**

Presenters: Alicia Armijo, New Mexico Higher Education Department

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Abstract: This workshop is the sixth annual meeting of the New Mexico State Authorization Network (NM-SAN). The New Mexico Higher Education Department NC SARA Coordinator will attend and provide important information regarding changes to SARA. There will be updates regarding NMHED processes and best practices for ensuring distance education compliance. Attendees will discuss needs and concerns relating to state authorization and provide feedback about NM-SAN Services.

Room: Las Cruces

Title: **New Mexico Dual Credit Partnerships (NMDCP) Meeting**

Presenters: Annie Willmon, San Juan College

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Abstract: New Mexico Dual Credit Partnerships (NMDCP) is New Mexico's state chapter of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP). The NMDCP Board of Directors will lead a discussion on communication strategies that promote dual credit access, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged communities. The session will include an overview of the state's Next Phase of Dual Enrollment initiative and invite participant input on a statewide dual credit vision. Carla Yorke, NACEP Program Manager, will highlight NACEP membership and accreditation opportunities, followed by information on NMDCP membership, Dual Credit Council participation, and upcoming Board elections.

Room: Santa Fe

Title: **Annual Meeting for NMAIRP**

Presenters: Calixto Melero, New Mexico State University

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Abstract: The New Mexico Association for Institutional Research and Planning (NMAIRP) will hold its annual meeting. One to two presenters will speak on current issues related to institutional research and planning.

Session Descriptions

Session Six: Friday, March 6, 2026 – 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Room: Salons G & H

Title: **Compassionate Learning: Supporting Growth, Engagement and Confidence**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Renee Malooly, Doña Ana Community College
Bethuel Khamala, Doña Ana Community College
Eyrusalam Bedasso, Doña Ana Community College
Andrea Severson Lopez, Doña Ana Community College

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Abstract: Compassionate learning integrates an environment that is both challenging and empowers students to succeed. By reducing stress through low-stakes assessments, facilitating engagement through student-created rubrics, and reinforcing a sense of belonging through positive micro-messaging, this collaborative presentation showcases strategies that enhance student retention, supported by quantitative and qualitative data.

Room: Carlsbad

Title: **As Technologies Fuse, Engaged Cross-Trained Instructors Engage Students for Retention**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Gabriel Garcia, New Mexico State University - Grants
Eric Oskey, New Mexico State University - Grants

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Abstract: In a rapidly evolving technological environment for CTE, our programs cross-train instructors across the disciplines. Students enrolled in these courses also cross-enroll. In this way, the instructors are modelling problem solving in a multidimensional environment while also creating personal relationships where students feel comfortable asking help from all of the engaged instructors.

Room: Salons I & J

Title: **Assessment of a Teacher Education Program: What are the Variables?**

Presenters: Johannes Addido, Eastern New Mexico University
John Petrone, Eastern New Mexico University
Kari Lemke, Eastern New Mexico University
Michael Shaughnessy, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Abstract: The assessment of a teacher education program is a major venture. It is critically important for evaluators to know the strengths and weaknesses of a program that produces professional educators who are "day one ready" for the classroom. This presentation will review the teacher education program from several perspectives- the entire program, the Instructors, their major and minor study areas, the textbooks and lastly, their field placements. Data will be presented cumulatively and analyzed.

Session Descriptions

Session Six: Friday, March 6, 2026 – 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Room: Sandia

Title: **Cultivating Local Solutions: Expanding the Feed the Hounds Initiative to tackle Food Insecurity and Promote Student and Community Engagement**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Anuoluwapo Ogunleye, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Abstract: The Feed the Hounds Initiative addresses food insecurity at ENMU by cultivating organic, campus-grown food and engaging students in hands-on gardening and volunteering activities. By improving access to healthy meals and fostering meaningful campus involvement, the initiative enhances student success, sense of belonging, and retention, while supporting faculty and staff well-being and commitment to ENMU.

Room: Pecos

Title: **Navigating our POLLEN Success: Assessment in Transformational Leadership**
Culturally Responsive Leadership

Presenters: Shawn Secatero, University of New Mexico
Bernard Chimoni, University of New Mexico
Marnita Chischilly, University of New Mexico

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Abstract: The UNM POLLEN program has redesigned its educational leadership program by creating an Indigenized holistic Corn Pollen curriculum that emphasizes spiritual, mental, physical and social well-being attributes for rising leaders. We will share our best practices of retention and assessment which has produced 71 graduates. Conference participants will produce a leadership vision statement, personalized leadership definition, and life symbol that relates to the 16 pillars of the Corn Pollen Model.

Room: Salons C & D

Title: **Stickybones for Biomechanics**

Presenters: Sarah J. Wall, Eastern New Mexico University
Brian Pasko, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Abstract: Biomechanics, HPE 312, is a course concerned with the physics of human movement. Stickybones are articulated, posable human figurines that students can manipulate in real time. These tools allow students to experiment, and become more engaged with movement concepts such as planes, axes, balance, and levers. In this presentation, we will discuss the implementation of Stickybones as a classroom manipulative in HPE 312 over F25 at ENMU. Stickybones will be on hand for the audience to participate in the activities as they were used in the Biomechanics classroom.

Session Descriptions

Session Six: Friday, March 6, 2026 – 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Room: Salons A & B
Title: **NMHED GE Essential Skills: Integrating Personal & Social Responsibility in STEM**
Presenter: Elizabeth Kerl, University of New Mexico
Time: 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM
Abstract: There can be challenges integrating NMHED's Personal & Social Responsibility (PSR) essential skill in the Physical & Natural Sciences. This session will explore how the dimensions connect scientific inquiry to real-world issues, fostering responsible action and community engagement, and will provide examples of assignment prompts.

Room: Acoma
Title: **Retain, Retrain, and Rise: AI Tools that Keep Students Learning and Earning Artificial Intelligence**
Presenters: Porter Cutrell, Roswell Independent School District, SOAR Innovations
Time: 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM
Abstract: Learn how SOAR's early warning system and 24/7 AI tutoring platform supports student retention by identifying at-risk learners early and reinforcing skill acquisition across CTE and academic pathways. This session explores real-time data tools that help students stay enrolled, stay supported, and stay on track to earn credentials.

Session Descriptions

Session Seven: Friday, March 6, 2026 – 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Room: Cimarron

Title: **A statewide Assessment of STEM Retention Trends for Women of Color**
Culturally Responsive Leadership

Presenters: Dina Advani-Mahmood, New Mexico State University
Suparna Chatterjee, New Mexico State University

Time: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Abstract: Using disaggregated statewide enrollment and persistence data, this analysis highlights equity gaps and institutional patterns shaping lower-division STEM pathways and retention outcomes. Findings offer insight into structural factors influencing persistence during the critical first years of STEM enrollment.

Room: Las Cruces

Title: **Promoting the College Promise: Assessing Dual Credit Student Thriving**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Annie Willmon, San Juan College

Time: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Abstract: Why do some high school students excel in Dual Credit while others don't? Learn from research done at a New Mexico community college which institutional factors help and hinder high school students' ability to thrive in their first exposure to higher education. Gain actionable strategies to facilitate equitable support systems.

Room: Santa Fe

Title: **NMHED Essential Skills: UNM's Implementation and Insights**

Presenters: Julie Sanchez, University of New Mexico
Eva Rodriguez-Gonzalez, University of New Mexico
Elizabeth Kerl, University of New Mexico

Time: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Abstract: Explore UNM's General Education assessment findings, lessons learned, and next steps. Since NMHED's 2019 reform, UNM has analyzed annual GE-data and has improved measurement, created professional development opportunities, and fostered collaborative initiatives to support student success. Join us for strategies, challenges, and solutions to enhance your state-mandated GE assessment process.

Session Descriptions

Session Seven: Friday, March 6, 2026 – 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Room: Salons G & H

Title: **Evaluating faculty performance: Building a culture of fairness, transparency and belonging**
Culturally Responsive Leadership

Presenters: Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza, New Mexico State University

Time: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Abstract: Faculty recruitment, professional development, and retention benefit from reviewing and modernizing practices to ensure that they emphasize transparency and communication regarding the evaluation criteria and faculty performance and build a culture of trust and belonging. The presentation will discuss effective practices for achieving these goals.

Room: Carlsbad

Title: **Faculty as Change Agents: Building Emotional Resonance and Retention through Curriculum Design**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Amala Luncheon, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Abstract: This session demonstrates how emotionally intelligent curriculum design strengthens student retention and assessment. Drawing from ENMU's emerging "Curriculum Charcuterie" model, participants will explore how emotional resonance - empathy, reflection, and cultural relevance, enhances engagement, belonging, and persistence, aligning faculty-driven innovation with HLC Criteria 3 and 4 for continuous improvement.

Room: Salons I & J

Title: **The Impact of Reflective Instruction with Technology Application on Skill Development in College Athletic Training Course: A Pilot Study**
Artificial Intelligence

Presenters: Hyunjin Kwon, Eastern New Mexico University
Hyokju Maeng, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Abstract: This practical implementation aims to apply the technology strategy to promote the skill development of undergraduate students in the athletic training courses. Therefore, this practical application has two goals: 1) enhancing the therapeutic skill development of undergraduate students and 2) examining their learning effectiveness in the athletic training courses in higher education.

Session Descriptions

Session Seven: Friday, March 6, 2026 – 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Room: Sandia

Title: **Strengthening Quality Assurance System through CAEP: Assessment, Analysis, and Action**

Presenters: Lisa Taylor, Western New Mexico University
Courtney McKnight, Western New Mexico University
Wenjie Wang, Western New Mexico University
Alexandra Neves, Western New Mexico University

Time: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Abstract: The College of Education's CAEP Leadership Team invites you to embark on a reflective journey toward CAEP accreditation. Focusing on the Quality Assurance System (QAS), we share how data collection (Assessment) informs interpretation (Analysis) and leads to continuous improvement (Action) within CAEP standards.

Room: Pecos

Title: **Microcredentials That Matter: How a Shared Strategy Strengthens Retention, Expands Pathways, and Builds Institutional Partnerships**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Andrew Sedillo, NMSU Global

Time: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Abstract: This session shares how NMSU's unified Microcredential strategy strengthens student retention, expands career pathways, and drives institutional collaboration. Participants will see how stackable microcredentials support learner confidence, progression, and purpose while fostering partnerships across colleges, faculty, and industry. Data and real examples demonstrate the impact on students, programs, and workforce alignment.

Room: Salons C & D

Title: **Who Wrote This? Faculty Identification of AI in Student Writing Samples**
Artificial Intelligence

Presenters: Matthew Vetterly, Eastern New Mexico University
Geoffrey Kellogg, Eastern New Mexico University
Mary Kallus, Eastern New Mexico University

Time: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Abstract: This study examined instructors' ability to detect whether a response to a prompt was AI-generated or written by a college student using signal theory. Instructors were first surveyed on their confidence in detecting AI-generated text, then asked to classify whether a response was written by a human or AI.

Session Descriptions

Session Seven: Friday, March 6, 2026 – 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Room: Salons A & B

Title: **Creating and Identifying Success in Workforce Development at San Juan College: Innovation + Leadership**

Presenters: Laura Beer, San Juan College
Jacinta Esquibel, San Juan College
Ana Greif, San Juan College
Tanda McCombe, San Juan College

Time: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Abstract: San Juan College's Center for Workforce Development integrates data-driven curriculum design, contract training, tribal and business outreach, and grant management. This session highlights how our collaborative team drives campus and community success through assessment-based strategies that expand access to learning, strengthen retention, and promote workforce readiness and regional economic growth.

Room: Acoma

Title: **Data Storytelling for Retention: How Data Visualization Informs Decision-Making Across Campus**
Student Retention and Success Metrics

Presenters: Charla Orozco, University of New Mexico

Time: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Abstract: This session explores how thoughtful visualization and data storytelling can strengthen institutional understanding of retention patterns. By highlighting principles of data visualization and showcasing examples of dashboard redesigns, we demonstrate how simplifying visuals, clarifying metrics, and emphasizing narrative structure help campus partners make better, faster decisions that support student momentum and completion.



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11:00 am - 11:45 am
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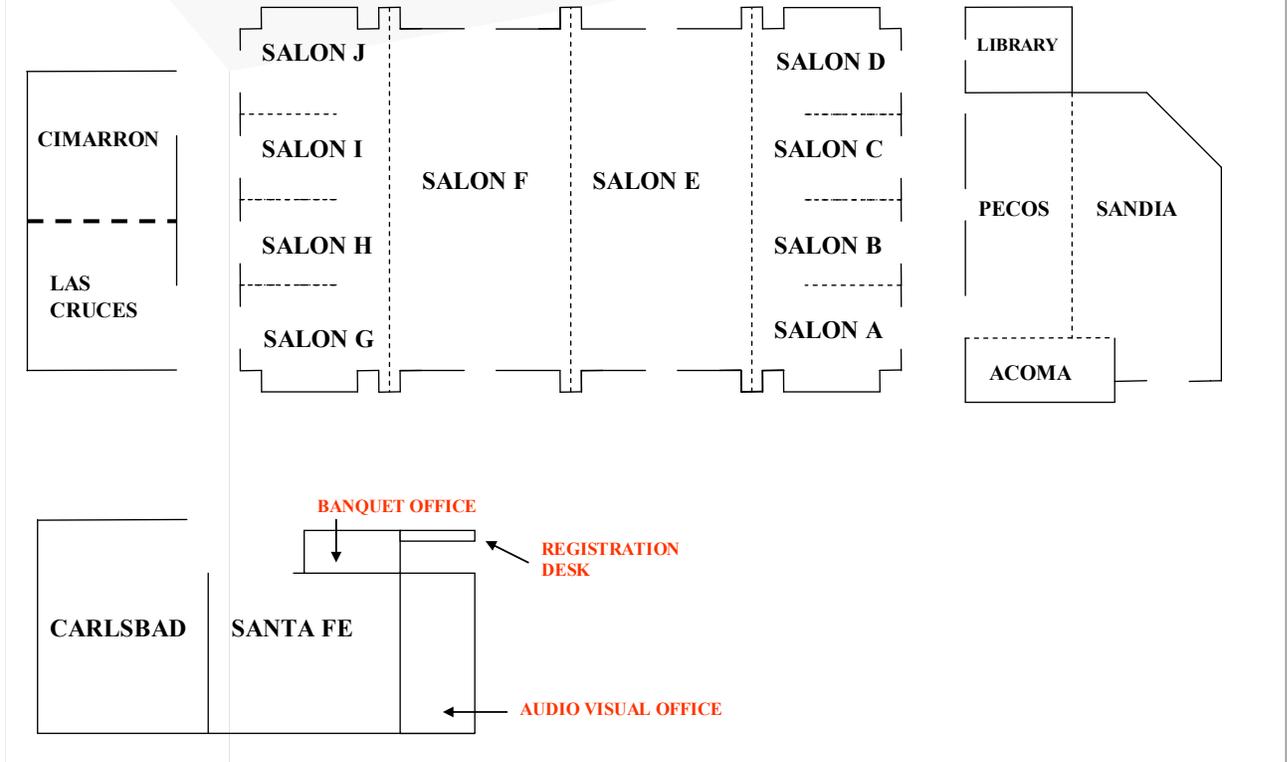
Contact Laura Grant, Retreat Director, at accreditation@nmsu.edu, or visit <https://nmhear.nmsu.edu/nmheaa-summer-retreat/index.html>.



A graphic featuring a stylized mountain range in black. A black arrow points upwards from the right side of the mountains to a sun with rays. Below the mountains is a black banner with the letters 'NMHEAR' in white. Below the graphic is the text: 'WE HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT YEAR AT THE 2027 NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND RETENTION CONFERENCE'. Below that is the text: 'Albuquerque, NM', 'February/March 2027', and 'https://nmhear.nmsu.edu'.



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