



In this Issue:

Celebrating Excellence: The
NMSU Admissions
Traveling Trophy

Page 2

Awards and Recognition:
New Employee Orientation
Kahoot Winners!!
Women’s History Month

Page 3

2025 ALTA Begins

Page 4

Balancing Work and Studies:
Time Management Tips for
Student Workers

Page 5

Get Ready for Compliance
Training (SET 2025)

Page 6

Important Dates
Spring Fun

Check Out Our
[Rewards and
Recognition Toolkit](#)

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Celebrating Excellence: The NMSU Admissions Traveling Trophy

At NMSU, fostering a strong sense of community and student success is at the heart of everything we do. As the oldest public institution of higher education in New Mexico, NMSU has always valued the people who make our mission possible—the devoted faculty and staff. As a proud member of the Undergraduate Admissions team, I’ve had the privilege of seeing firsthand how the dedication of our faculty and staff positively **impacts the entire NMSU community.**

My name is Frida Padilla, and I joined the Admissions team as an Administrative Assistant, Sr. in September of 2024. Like anyone starting a new role, I was eager to contribute but also nervous about finding my place in a team that works so diligently to shape the future generations of Aggies. However, it didn’t take long for me to realize that I had joined a **truly special community—one that values not just the work we do, but the people behind it.** One of the first things that made me feel truly seen and appreciated was receiving the departmental **Traveling Trophy.** This small yet memorable tradition reaffirmed why I wanted to be here in the first place—to make a difference, just like so many of my teammates do every day.

The Traveling Trophy is a way to **uplift and recognize each other’s efforts** in a peer-driven, heartfelt way. The recipient of the Traveling Trophy holds onto it proudly until our next bi-monthly all staff meeting. Unlike traditional employee recognition programs, this trophy comes with a unique twist—each recipient gets to choose the next honoree. The beauty of this system is that it’s **completely peer-driven**—there are no committees or formal selection criteria, just an opportunity to acknowledge someone who has gone above and beyond in their role. Whether it’s for exceptional teamwork, innovative problem-solving, or simply bringing positive energy to the office, the award allows us to **shine a spotlight on our**

everyday heroes.

This simple act of appreciation has become a bright spot in our meetings, reinforcing the strong sense of community that defines NMSU and serves as a **reminder that every effort counts**, no matter how big or small. This tradition helps maintain an atmosphere of encouragement, motivation, and shared purpose, ensuring that our focus remains on **delivering the best possible experience for every student who interacts with NMSU.**

Seeing the impact of this tradition in Admissions, I suggested expanding the idea through the feedback link in the February Newsletter. Dr. Busch loved the concept, and through our collaboration, we are excited to challenge **every department** at NMSU to create an “**Employee of the Month**” program and we recognize that employee in our monthly newsletter. Please **follow the link** below if you would like to learn more.

<https://forms.office.com/r/hdKSykFuYw>

By celebrating the dedication of our colleagues, we hope to continue to build a workplace culture where hard work is noticed, teamwork is valued, and appreciation is shared.

Respectfully - Frida Padilla



Photo credits to: Shayla Whitaker

Awards and Recognition – New Employee Orientation Kahoot Winners!!

New Employee Orientation (NEO) is an integral, but voluntary, part of the onboarding process at NMSU. NEO covers important parts of the university's **history**, lays out the **strategic goals** for new employees to understand, and attendees get a look at all the **perks** NMSU has to offer its employees. Not only is it facilitated by one of our trainers, NEO also features speakers from Aggie Health and Wellness. They provide information on health services available to employees. Next, Information Security informs employees on how to keep their data and information secure on and off campus. Of the most favorable information provided is the presentation given by the Benefits team. They go over the several types of insurances offered and walk through the process on how to enroll in benefits. Because NEO takes place during the workday, it is advised that those wishing to enroll communicate with their leaders first. - Nathan Jackson

We congratulate February's **New Employee Orientation** Kahoot winners that were able to recall all the important things they learned about NMSU!

Charrissa Corbin

Undergrad Admissions & Orientation

Erin Quinn

Admin and PGM Unit Otero County

Paige Wheeler

PSL Directors Office

Monica Hoyle

Office of People Relations

Joyce Marumo

Extension Animal Resources

Kayleena Rodriguez

GRCC Student Services Ctr

New Employee Orientation March Trainings

Recently hired? Learn more about
NMSU and your benefits!

Register Here!

[Registration for New Employee
Orientation \(2025\)](#)

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



The National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) presents this year's theme "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations". 2025's theme specifically highlights contributions made to the American educational system by women.

You can help follow this year's theme by:

Honoring educators, mentors, and leaders

Inspiring all generations to pursue education

Educating those around you

Uniting communities to explore, share, and celebrate

Envisioning a blueprint for the future

For additional resources and access to their Women's History toolkit... visit the NWHHA website at:

[Home - National Women's History Alliance](#)

2025 ALTA Begins – Ruben Diaz



“Is it March... *already?*” It might be cliché, but it’s also quite a ubiquitous feeling, right? Our sense of time often keeps us on our toes and humbled by what we can’t control, but it’s also a reminder to focus on what we *can* control and strive to achieve with the time we have. With that in mind, we are proud to announce the launch of our 2025 Aggie Leadership Training Academy and highlight the 35 NMSU employees embarking on the year-long journey of personal growth and professional development.

This year we were thrilled to receive a record number of applicants and accept our largest cohort in program history. This group is comprised of staff and faculty representing various departments, colleges, and strategic efforts across the NMSU system. One of the most powerful drivers of growth and learning is exposure to a diverse array of perspectives and insights, and ALTA thrives on creating a space for all of our Aggie employees to connect and support each other as a cohort of rising leaders.

Over the next nine months our cohort will participate in monthly sessions structured around research-based leadership development frameworks. The journey will be engaging, challenging, and impactful, not just for each individual but for the collective impact on the NMSU system.

Keep a look out for the following individuals as they go through the program this year. You may find evidence of their growth as they implement new leadership competencies into their day-to-day practices. Lead on, Aggies!

2025 Cohort

Adriana Delgado	Kimberly Ventura
Alice Delgado	Kristen Torres
Andrea Arrigucci	Lori King
Ashley Burkholder	Mariah Preciado
Cheryl Lombardi	Marisa Van Dommelen
Damian Lopez	McKenna Garcia
Denise Rodriguez-Strawn	Md Islam
Erika De La O Medina	Michael Townsend
Francisco Martinez	Nikki May
Frank Sage	Ricardo Ramirez
Gloria Brownell	Salvador Valenzuela Chavez
Heidi Sanchez	Sarah Krohn
Jennifer Chandler	Spri Aubrey
Joaquin Tadeo	Stacey Duncan
Joshua Taylor	Ufuomakaro Ademila
Joy Nelson	William Ketzeback
Jude Betancourt	Yvette Benitz
Kelly Ahrendes	

Balancing Work and Studies: Time Management Tips for Student Employees - David Rodriguez

Being a student employee in a university presents a unique set of challenges. Juggling coursework, job responsibilities, and personal time can feel overwhelming. However, effective time management can help you maintain a balance, reduce stress, and maximize productivity. Here are some essential strategies:

1. Prioritize Tasks

Identify urgent and important tasks using the Eisenhower Matrix (urgent/important vs. non-urgent/non-important). Tackle high-priority assignments first to avoid last-minute stress.

2. Use a Planner or Digital Calendar

Scheduling is key. Utilize planners, apps, or digital calendars to track class schedules, work shifts, deadlines, and personal activities. Google Calendar, Notion, or Todoist can help organize your time efficiently.

3. Set Realistic Goals

Break larger tasks into smaller, manageable steps. Instead of saying, "I need to write a 10-page paper," set goals like "Research for one hour" or "Write two pages today." This prevents procrastination and makes tasks more achievable.

4. Establish a Routine

Having a structured daily routine helps create consistency. Allocate specific time slots for work, study, and relaxation. Sticking to a routine enhances discipline and reduces time wasted on indecision.

5. Learn to Say "No"

As a student employee, you might feel pressure to take on extra shifts or social commitments. While it's great to be helpful, overcommitting can lead to burnout. Know your limits and prioritize your academic and well-being needs.

6. Utilize Breaks Wisely

Instead of scrolling on social media during breaks, use short gaps to review notes, read, or plan your next tasks. Even a five-minute review session can reinforce learning and boost retention.

7. Avoid Multitasking

Though it might seem like a time-saver, multitasking often reduces efficiency and leads to errors. Focus on one task at a time for better quality and quicker completion.

8. Communicate with Employers and Professors

If your workload becomes overwhelming, communicate with your employer about your availability and inform professors about any work-related conflicts. They may offer flexibility or extensions when needed.

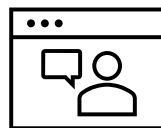
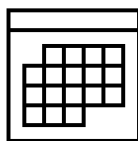
9. Make Time for Self-Care

Rest, exercise, and social time are just as crucial as work and study. A well-rested mind is more productive and focused, making time management easier.

10. Reflect and Adjust

Periodically assess your time management strategies. What's working? What needs improvement? Adjust your schedule accordingly to enhance efficiency.

By implementing these strategies, student workers can maintain a healthy balance between academics, work, and personal life. With proper time management, you can achieve your goals without feeling overwhelmed.



Get Ready for Compliance Training (SET 2025) – Robert Curr

In case you are new and have never heard of SET, it stands for Strategic & Essential Training. This training is completed system-wide by all employees, including student employees. There are four main goals:

1) Avoiding and detecting violations by employees that could lead to legal liability for NMSU.

Detecting violations may sound a bit sinister, but as often as not, these are accidental violations. For example, did you know mercury lightbulbs count as hazardous waste? Special procedures must be followed for their disposal that are covered in the Environmental Health and Safety portion of SET. If disposal guidelines aren't followed, NMSU can be fined hundreds, if not thousands of dollars. Additionally, you or someone else's health could be put in jeopardy. None of us want either to happen.

2) Creating a more hospitable and respectful workplace.

NMSU has employees and students from all over New Mexico, all over the US, and all over the world. In such an environment, we must all take extra care to ensure everyone is welcome here and treated respectfully, even in trying situations.

3) Laying the groundwork for a partial or complete defense in the event that employee wrongdoing occurs despite the organization's training efforts.

This training is a protective measure for NMSU. If employees are trained to follow certain guidelines, NMSU reduces its organizational culpability when employees violate said guidelines.

4) Adding business value and competitive advantage.

At the end of the day, NMSU is a higher education institution in an extremely competitive market. SET is meant to protect the university's standing while attracting the best students and employees possible. Legal problems and scandals are a distraction from the excellence in education, research, and service we are striving for.

SET helps to guard our safety, ensure respect for everyone, avoid legal issues, and promote the NMSU brand.

Annual systemwide SET for all NMSU employees remains **on hold** pending implementation of our new training platform. Onboarding SET for **new hires** is ongoing at the link provided below.

[Onboarding SET Training for New Hires](#)

Important Dates To Remember

REVISED Training Central “Go Live” and Training Partner Training Dates

CLPD staff Pilot Testing/Training
January 3 – March 3rd, 2025

OnDemand Cornerstone Training
(LMS administrators only – 7 hr course)
Opens March 3rd, 2025

CLPD and Training Partner “Go Live”
Week of March 10th, 2025

NMSU “Go Live” (Tentative)
March 17th, 2025

2025 Annual Compliance Training (SET) Begins March 24th

<https://training.nmsu.edu/set/>

National Administrative Professionals Day –
COMING SOON

New Admin? Join the Teams Administrative Assistants Resource Group
[Administrative Assistants Resource Group](#) | [General](#) | [Microsoft Teams](#)

Join NMSU LinkedIn Learning
Follow the link below to begin learning

[LinkedIn Learning: Online Training Courses & Skill Building](#)

Sign in using your myNMSU username and password.

Spring Fun! - Lizeth Ramirez



MARCH

H R N H L S K C I R T A P E T
S M A R C H G G N I W O R G R
I L G A N U S O E S P R I N G
R S B R E T R U F G R B S W M
I F S D N R I E E L I T R E F
K N H I O H I I I R H K R A R
E K A R O T H C D G S I I T W
T S M W A B A S I G T I F H W
A L R D R H O L G L L R H E I
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A W K S D R N E E R G G O D L
F D E Z I G R E N E S S A R G
I N W M D E C L O U D S S N G
I G R W K N R C T H D N I W N

Energized
Clouds
Birds
Bower
Saint
Sun

Daylight
Fertile
Irish
Grass
Weather
Patrick

Growing
Spring
Green
Wind
Shamrock
March

IDEAS for the BRIDGE?

Select here and tell us more: [The BRIDGE Newsletter Ideas!](#)

Thank you for your input!