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# The BRIDGE

BREAKING SILOS, BRIDGING GAPS



## CLPD Proudly Welcomes Our New Training Specialist—Nathan!



Hello! My name is Nathan Jackson. I am a native of New Mexico. While I was not born in New Mexico, I grew up in Silver City from the young age of 2 months old. As a graduate of Silver High, I decided to stay close to family and attain my Bachelors in English from Western New Mexico University. After graduation, I left New Mexico and lived in various locations around the US. Having lived in four different states since graduation, I have been able to explore the different cultures, foods, and lifestyles of the Pacific Northwest, the South, and the South Atlantic.

While living in different states, I pursued my first Masters Degree in English from Southern New Hampshire University. This degree allowed me to dive deeper into literature and understand what it means to apply theoretical lenses to well and lesser-known pieces of work. Upon completion of my first Masters, I decided I was not done and continued to work for another Masters in Creative Writing. My future education goals include attaining a PhD in English. I value education and firmly believe that a person's education can never be taken away.

My three biggest passions are Broadway musicals, Disney Parks, and running. You can ask me my favorite musical, and the answer will probably change daily. Some of my favorite memories include taking various trips to both domestic Disney Resorts at different times. In 2023, I combined my passion for running and Disney and ran two half marathons at Walt Disney World. In 2026, I plan to run my first full marathon in an effort to complete the Six Marathon Majors.

As I reflect on my life so far, I am grateful for every opportunity I have had, professional and academic. Now that I am settling back in New Mexico, I am excited to see what the future holds. I am delighted to have this opportunity with the Center for Learning and Professional Development and NMSU.



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### TRAINING CENTRAL UPDATE— WE NEED YOU TO BECOME A TRAINING PARTNER

From **December 1, 2024 through end of January, 2025**, Training Central will be down as we move to the cloud. Current Training Partners who offer employee training will be using alternative methods to train employees, create registrations, track attendance, and eventually, add the information into our new system. We will be offering training partner training for the new system in January. This will be your opportunity to learn how to use the new system to support your department’s specific training needs.

If you are not currently a training partner but your department/division/unit offers trainings that should be captured on the employee transcript, please email [trainingcentral@nmsu.edu](mailto:trainingcentral@nmsu.edu) and ask to become a training partner by **January 3, 2025**.

## CLPD PROUDLY WELCOMES OUR NEW TRAINING SPECIALIST—ROBERT



Robert Curr grew up in Indiana before attending college in Vermont. He has taught English abroad since the 90's with the past decade focused on teaching academic English to incoming students at English-language universities.

He has an MATESOL from Sheffield Hallam University in the UK and graduated with an M. Ed. in Learning Design and Technology from Purdue University in 2024.

He is interested in remote training, microlearning, example-based learning, and making training content more engaging.

Outside of work, he enjoys listening to a broad range of music including indie rock, jazz, hip hop, funk, ska, and blues. You might also find him reading, cycling, and/or traveling.

## ALTA COMMENCEMENT: CLOSING 2024, WELCOMING 2025—RUBEN DIAZ

Commencement is a word with profound relevance and emotional resonance in higher education. This month, NMSU celebrates the class of 2024 with a Fall Commencement Ceremony to be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. We would like to take a moment to congratulate our graduating Aggies on their achievements and wish them all the best moving forward!

Speaking of commencement ceremonies... we are also proud to recognize our graduating cohort from the 2024 Aggie Leadership Training Academy. Our 2024 ALTA cohort consisted of 24 outstanding employees representing a diverse range of staff and faculty positions. These individuals completed a year-long journey of personal growth and professional development, culminating in our graduation ceremony held on November 15, 2024. If you know the following individuals, please take a moment to congratulate them on their success:

*Adriana Chavez, Allixandra Trujillo, Betsy Banks, Chris J. Scott, Christine Reyes, Edwin Zenisek, Enrique Solis, Griselda Carranza, Hillary Avitia, Jerry Fleming, Jessica Aguirre, Kari Bellavita, Kel Jaeger, Kirsten Holles, Krystal Espinoza, Lisa Hermanson, Liz Rodriguez, Lourdes Alvarado-Salas, Maribel Tellez, Rene Samaniego, Sue-Lyn Acosta, Theresa Healy, Veronica Anaya, Yesenia Palma.*

While commencement is often associated with the culmination of a journey, it also refers to the beginning of something new; with that in mind, we are excited to announce the **application to join the 2025 Aggie Leadership Training Academy is now available!**

ALTA is a leadership certification program that provides high-performing and/or high-potential employees (administrators, faculty, and staff) with an opportunity to develop leadership competencies in preparation for career advancement opportunities. Because an individual's capacity for leadership is not defined by their job title, ALTA is open to all NMSU employees. Those selected for the program will develop their leadership competencies to effectively interact with members of our university community and contribute to a respectful and productive working and learning environment.

Are you ready to apply, or want to learn more? Visit our [ALTA Program Overview](#) page for more details and instructions to apply for the 2025 cohort. The application requirements include a recommendation form from a supervisor, so we advise applicants to start the process early to meet the **submission deadline of January 24, 2025**. Don't hesitate to reach out to us at [trainingcentral@nmsu.edu](mailto:trainingcentral@nmsu.edu) with any questions. Lead on, Aggies!



## READY...SET...OH, WAIT! - JENNIFER GABEL

Training Central is moving to a new, cloud-based platform. The expected go-live for the new system is late January/early February.

January is usually when the Annual Strategic & Essential Training (SET) certification is rolled out. Due to the Training Central upgrade, the 2025 Annual SET enrollments will be delayed. We anticipate the rollout in late February or early March.

What this means...

- New employees hired between November and February will be enrolled in Onboarding SET certification through Canvas.
- All employees, including new employees, will be enrolled in 2025 Annual SET certification through the “new & improved” Training Central. Exact dates for enrollment are still pending but you can check our website at <https://training.nmsu.edu/set> and future editions of The Bridge for the latest updates.



## CLPD WISHES YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS! - BREANNA



As we come to the close of another remarkable year at New Mexico State University, we would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who make this university such a special place: our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the broader Aggie community.

This season is a time to reflect on our shared accomplishments and look forward to the exciting

opportunities ahead. Whether you’ve spent the semester in the classroom, conducting research, supporting the university behind the scenes, or cheering on our student-athletes, your contributions have helped strengthen the bonds that make NMSU a vibrant, dynamic institution.

The holidays offer a chance for rest and rejuvenation, but they also remind us of the importance of community, kindness, and giving back. As we celebrate this season, let us continue to support one another, embrace diversity, and work toward a future that reflects the values we hold dear—excellence, integrity, and inclusivity.

We wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season filled with peace, happiness, and renewal. May the new year bring continued success, fulfillment, and a sense of pride in being part of the NMSU family.