

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

Legislative Priorities 2026 Session



New Mexico State University

New Mexico is Our Campus

For generations, NMSU has steered New Mexico into the future, expanding current knowledge and technology to deliver new solutions to people statewide. Such an impact is only possible because of NMSU's unique and deep connections across the vast and diverse Land of Enchantment.

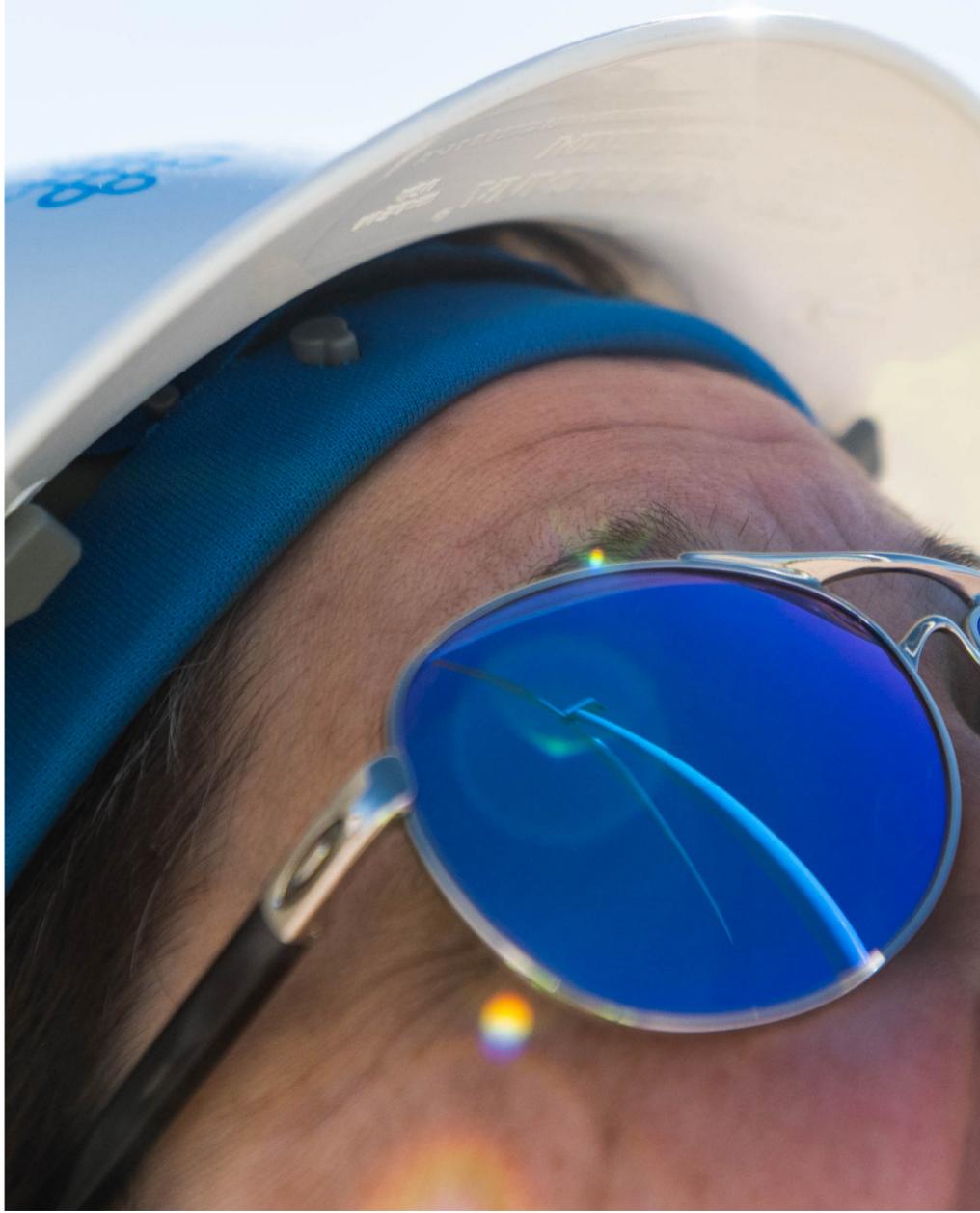
In the coming year, NMSU is gearing up again to partner with institutions all over New Mexico. NMSU's goal: Graduate a workforce that serves the state's distinctive needs while reinforcing experiential learning, and doubling down on developing critical thinking and soft skills for students.

To support these efforts, and more, NMSU requests:

- Support for innovation infrastructure, specifically for the Institute for Applied Practice in AI and Machine Learning, and modernization of NMSU's Physical Science Laboratory.
- Investments in infrastructure across the statewide system.
- Backing for academics, student life and campus experience, including Cooperative Extension and food pantries systemwide.
- Support for nutrition education and public television that offsets lost federal funding.
- Investment for upgrades to NMSU Athletics facilities.

#1

National University
IN NEW MEXICO
U.S. News and World Report



NMSU is Reimagining AI Research and Education

\$2.13 MILLION

NMSU is pioneering a bold, interdisciplinary approach to artificial intelligence. With support, it will expand ethical AI capacity to address practical challenges facing New Mexico and beyond.

Through statewide collaborations, it will focus on New Mexico's key sectors and economic development needs to build an AI-ready workforce, accelerate applied AI adoption for agriculture, water, energy, manufacturing, logistics, cybersecurity and public health. This initiative will also grow AI training access for New Mexicans, including first-generation, low-income and rural learners.



Upgrading for National Defense Research

\$16 MILLION, NONRECURRING

To modernize, test and evaluate activities and increase competitiveness in national security contracts, NMSU asks for this support. This request is part of a larger, joint defense research infrastructure request with UNM and New Mexico Tech.



CARNEGIE R1
Research University

Keeping Students First in a Visionary Campus

Students are NMSU's priority. As they prepare for their futures, NMSU students require support that goes beyond the classroom. The requests below cover many aspects of the student experience.

- NMSU cooperative education office (\$1.5 million, nonrecurring): Building a cooperative education office provides a collaborative space to deliver immersive professional experience and preparation.
- NMSU community college system food pantries (\$2.5 million, nonrecurring): Establishing an endowment to develop food pantries at Doña Ana Community College, Alamogordo and Grants campuses keeps students fed across the state.
- ASNMSU campus life and security improvements (\$5.625 million, nonrecurring): Investing here allows completion of a multi-purpose band and intramural sports field and improvement of security infrastructure.



Maintaining and Growing NMSU's Facilities

Planning for growth, while maintaining and improving NMSU's existing campus remains critical for the future of the institution. Support in this systemwide area affects the entire state.

Main Campus

- Multi-disciplinary academic facility (\$100 million): To plan, design and build a shared academic and administrative hub.
- Critical infrastructure improvements (\$35 million): To improve the reliability and capacity of telecommunications, water, power grid and wastewater systems.
- Structural repairs for Chamisa Hall dorm (\$10 million): To provide structural stabilization, foundation repairs and demolition.

Statewide

- NMSU DACC Sunland Park renovation and expansion (\$4 million): To expand campus to address growth and workforce training needs.
- NMSU Grants electric access control (\$1.2 million): To enhance campus safety and security.
- NMSU Alamogordo electric access control (\$1.05 million): To enhance campus safety and security.
- NMSU Agricultural Science Center improvements (\$30 million): To improve facilities at the 12 centers around the state.



Restoring Programs for New Mexicans

\$3.14 MILLION

Three important programs need replacement funding so they can continue to help New Mexicans.

- Ideas in Cooking and Nutrition (\$2.5 million): A longtime NMSU Cooperative Extension program that educates and inspires families to improve food and lifestyle choices, while creating health-friendly communities and teaching resilience.
- Educational television (\$500,000): New Mexico children build literacy, math and social skills via KRWG-TV programming such as Sesame Street and PBS Kids.
- CAMP (\$142,000): For more than 20 years, CAMP has supported the higher education needs of eligible agricultural workers, supporting them through graduation at NMSU.



Building for Future Success

\$20 MILLION

Creating more options for premium seating in football and a modernized press box reflects where NMSU Athletics is headed. Not only would this overdue upgrade be safer and accessible for all, it also elevates the game-day experience for donors and creates opportunities for new revenue streams.



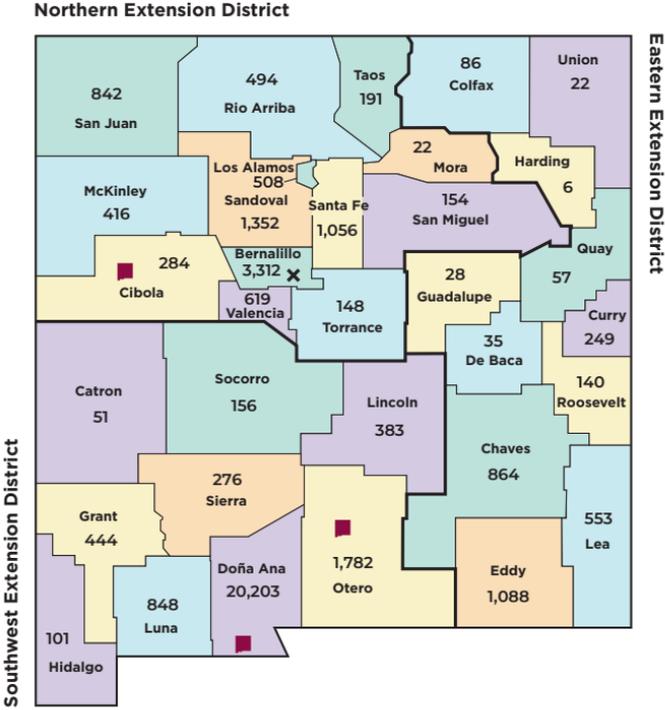
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**National University
IN THE FOUR-CORNERS
STATES FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY**

U.S. News and World Report

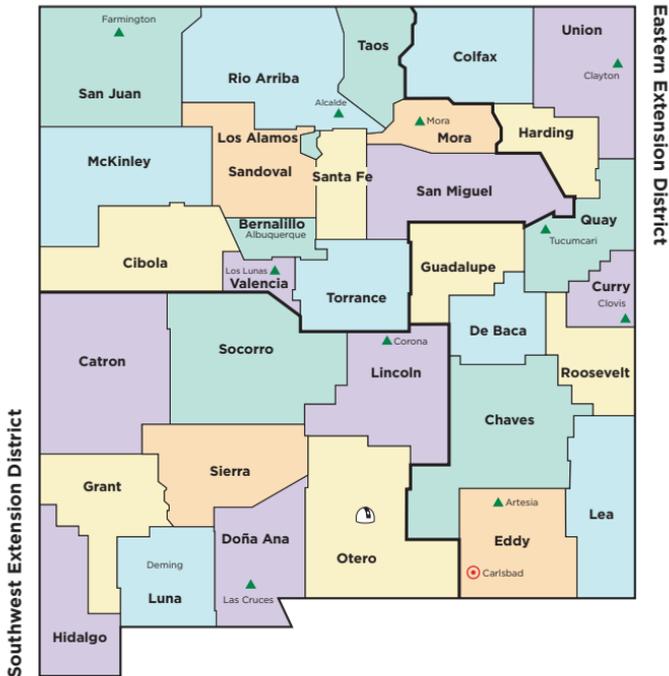
Our Teaching Reaches All Corners

Enrollment by County, at time of Admission, Fall 2022 to Fall 2025



Our Research Shapes NM's Future

Northern Extension District

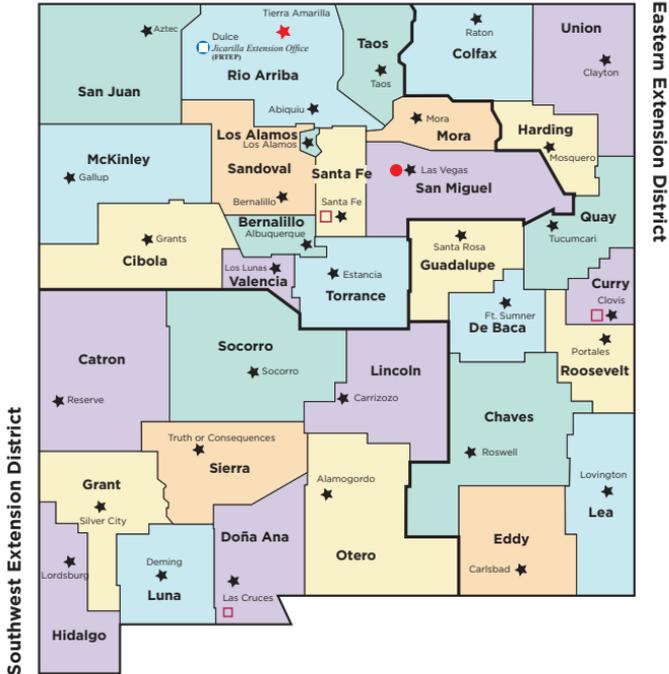


Facility Locations

- ▲ Agricultural Science and Research Centers
- Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center
- Apache Point Observatory
- Sunspot Solar Observatory
- Dunn Solar Telescope

Our Outreach Delivers Solutions

Northern Extension District



Facility Locations

- Cooperative Extension Service District Offices
- Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP)
- ★ County Extension Offices
- Extension and Research Youth Agricultural Science Center
- ★ County Extension Satellite Office



First Generation

Designated a
**FIRST-GEN
FORWARD
INSTITUTION,**

Center for First-Generation
Student Success



**NMSU Global
BEST ONLINE
COLLEGE
IN NEW MEXICO**

Forbes Advisor

LOWEST
IN-STATE TUITION
among all research universities
in the state, Best Value National
University in the region

15:1
**STUDENT-TO-FACULTY
RATIO**
Best among all National
Universities in the Region

Headcount by Campus

	Total Students	Undergraduate	Graduate
Las Cruces and NMSU Global	16,076	13,039	3,037
Doña Ana County	7,649	N/A	N/A
Grants	816	N/A	N/A
Alamogordo	1,215	N/A	N/A

Student enrollment as of Fall 2025 census, September 5, 2025



An Early Look at 2026



Increase in undergrad
applications compared
to last year

as of 1/19/26

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