



# OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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## The Office of Government and Community Relations: Here to Serve the University System

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Office of Government and Community Relations. Our goal is to keep you informed about the critical work we do in building connections between NMSU and government officials at all levels.

[Read more here.](#)



Photo by Sam Wasson

## NMSU Launches Initiative to Support Congressional Internships in Washington, D.C.

New Mexico State University is introducing a new initiative to support students pursuing legislative internships in Washington, D.C. Through the Congressional Internship Series, hosted by the Office of Experiential Learning and the Office of Government and Community Relations, students will receive comprehensive guidance on the application process, intern responsibilities, and the experience of living in the nation's capital.

[Read more here.](#)



Image Source: Gabe Vazquez, Internships



## Welcome! Learn About NMSU's Office of Government and Community Relations

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Greetings, Aggies! Welcome to the first edition of the Office of Government and Community Relations newsletter. Through these newsletters, we aim to share insights into the work of our office, provide updates on government processes, highlight opportunities, and showcase the outreach and support we provide on behalf of students, faculty, administration, and other New Mexico State University entities.

For those who may not be familiar with our office, our primary focus is on outreach, dialogue, and relationship-building with elected officials and government staff at the local, state, and federal levels. We hope you find these newsletters informative and valuable. We also welcome feedback and suggestions from faculty, administrators, researchers, students, and others on how we can continue to serve the Aggie Nation.

Please feel free to contact us with any question you may have regarding Aggie Government Relations.

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## NMSU Launches Initiative to Support Congressional Internships in Washington, D.C.

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Image Source: The Albuquerque Journal, Eddie Moore

New Mexico State University (NMSU) is committed to empowering students to pursue legislative internships at both the state and national levels. Recognizing the importance of these opportunities, NMSU is actively working to ensure that students have the necessary support systems in place to apply for and succeed in legislative internships in Washington, D.C. To this end, the NMSU Alumni Foundation has launched a giving campaign ([click here](#)) where you can donate towards this initiative. Dr. Sylvia Acosta and the foundation are key to a successful Aggie Internship Pipeline to DC.

As part of this commitment, the Office of Experiential Learning in collaboration with the Office of Government and Community Relations, is hosting a Congressional Internship Series that will provide in-depth guidance and resources for students interested in these prestigious opportunities. This series will cover everything from the application process to the daily responsibilities of interns and the experience of living in Washington, D.C.

### Key Details of the Congressional Internship Series:

- **Dates:**
  - Tuesday, September 24
  - Wednesday, October 16
- **Times and Locations:**
  - 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | CCSU Room 302 Senate Chambers
  - 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM | CCSU Room 247 Auditorium

- **Food and drinks will be provided**

*\*Afternoon and evening sessions will be held on BOTH days at the times/locations listed above.*

During these sessions, students will have the opportunity to connect with mentors who can provide valuable insights and advice on navigating the legislative internship experience. **Additionally, the first 25 students in attendance at each session will receive a \$25 gift card as an incentive to participate.**

This series is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn more about the unique challenges and rewards of interning at the state and national levels, and to start building the connections that will help them succeed. *Faculty/Staff, if you are interested in becoming a mentor, please reach out to the Office of Experiential Learning to express your interest and learn more about how you can play a vital role in shaping the next generation of legislative leaders. Your mentorship can make a significant difference in helping students navigate the complexities of legislative work and develop the skills necessary to thrive in these challenging environments*

Don't miss this chance to take the first step towards a rewarding legislative internship experience with the support and guidance of NMSU!



## General Revenue FY26 Consensus Revenue Estimate

The **Consensus Revenue Estimating Group\*** has projected a **2.8% increase** in General Fund revenue for New Mexico, reaching **\$13.4 billion** for FY26. This includes **\$659.6 million** in “total new money,” which is the difference between the estimated revenue for FY26 and the total appropriations from FY25.

Key points from the projection include:

- **Revenue Growth:** The increase is driven by higher distributions of oil and gas revenues to the Severance Tax Permanent Fund and the Early Childhood Education and Care Trust Fund, along with tax relief measures for New Mexicans.
- **Income Taxes:** Revenues from corporate and personal income taxes are expected to drop by 6.5% in FY25 due to the Child Tax Credit, reformed tax brackets, and new credits. However, a moderate 2% growth in income taxes is anticipated to resume in FY26.
- **Gross Receipts Tax:** This revenue is expected to grow by about 1.8%, tempered by previous rate cuts and new or expanded deductions.
- **Oil and Gas Revenue:** A slight decline of about 2.3% in oil and gas revenue to the General Fund is expected this fiscal year.

*\*The group includes economists from various state departments and the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC). They caution that national and global events, such as changes in global oil markets and economic trends, could impact these projections.*

*This information was drawn from the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, 'General Fund revenue to increase by 2.8% for FY26,' August 21, 2024, <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/2024/08/21/general-fund-revenue-to-increase-by-2-8-for-fy26/>*

### OTHER RESOURCES:

[View LFC's full report on General Fund Consensus Revenue Estimate](#)

[LFC Website](#)

### About LFC:

“The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) was first established as a fiscal and management arm of the New Mexico Legislature in 1957. Since its inception, the committee's role in the state budget process has grown as the complexity and size of the budget has increased. In 1991, LFC assumed responsibility for the performance audit program, previously a part of the Office of the State Auditor.”

*(This information was drawn from the Legislative Finance Committee, 'LFC Overview,' 2024, <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Entity/LFC/Overview>)*

## **NMSU Leadership Tours Agricultural Science Centers to Promote Infrastructure Investment**

In a dedicated effort to support infrastructure investments that will result from the passage of the 2024 General Obligation Bond Package, NMSU Interim President Monica Torres, Agricultural Experiment Station Director Jay Lilywhite, Vice President of Facilities and Services Raghu Raghavan, and Assistant Vice President of Government and Community Relations Clayton Abbey, recently embarked on a tour of NMSU’s Agricultural Science Centers in Clovis, Tucumcari, and Clayton. Their mission: to engage with local legislators and community leaders, and underscore the importance of Bond Question 3 on the upcoming November ballot.

This General Obligation bond is set to provide \$51 million to the NMSU system, including \$15 million specifically earmarked for improvements at the Agricultural Science Centers. These funds are crucial to advancing NMSU’s land-grant mission and addressing the needs of New Mexico's agricultural sector through cutting-edge research and community engagement.

During their visits, President Torres and other university leaders witnessed firsthand the aging infrastructure and outdated research areas that are in dire need of renovation. Despite these challenges, the centers continue to produce groundbreaking research. Current projects include the sustainable production of corn, innovative feeding practices for the cattle industry, the use of biochar in soil conservation and carbon sequestration, and the development of virtual fencing technologies.

NMSU is fortunate to have strong advocates for its agricultural mission, including Senator Pat Woods and Representative Jack Chatfield. Both have consistently championed the importance of these research centers and have played a key role in securing funding for essential equipment. A special thanks goes to Dr. Jay Lillywhite, Vice President Raghavan, and the many NMSU researchers and staff members whose hard work keeps these research centers thriving. Their dedication is a testament to the university’s commitment to advancing agricultural research and supporting New Mexico’s communities.

**An important note: With the support of Bond Question 3 on the November 4th ballot, NMSU is poised to continue its mission of driving innovation and sustainability in agriculture, ensuring a brighter future for the industry and the state.**



President Torres accompanies Dr. Leonard Lauriault, Research Director at Tucumcari Ag Science Center as they view the conditions of the facilities.



A shot of the Crop/Feed Quonset Building, which will receive a renovation with the passage of a successful GO Bond question.



## New Mexico Legislative Interim Committees to Convene at NMSU Main Campus

NMSU is honored to host two upcoming legislative interim committee meetings on our main campus in the coming weeks. These sessions provide a unique opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and the broader community to engage with the legislative process and gain insight into critical issues facing our state. We welcome listeners from our student body, faculty, and other university visitors to attend and listen in.

### **Indian Affairs Committee**

**Date:** September 6th

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Location:** Corbett Center Student Union Ballrooms

The Indian Affairs Committee will focus on matters impacting Native American communities across New Mexico. Discussions will cover a range of topics, from healthcare and education to economic development and cultural preservation. This meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the legislative efforts aimed at addressing the needs of these vital communities.

### **Courts, Corrections, and Justice Committee**

**Dates:** October 9th-11th

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Location:** Stan Fulton Center

The Courts, Corrections, and Justice Committee will convene for a three-day session at the Stan Fulton Center. This committee plays a crucial role in shaping policies related to the state's justice system, including criminal justice reform, corrections, and legal affairs. The extensive agenda will include discussions on legislative initiatives aimed at improving the efficiency and fairness of New Mexico's judicial system.

Both of these committee meetings are open to the public, offering a rare opportunity to witness the legislative process in action and to participate in discussions that will help shape the future of New Mexico.

Again, we encourage all interested members of the NMSU community to attend these sessions and take advantage of this unique educational experience. Your presence and participation are highly valued as we host these important events on our campus.

### OTHER RESOURCES:

[IAC Agenda 09/06](#)

[CCJ Agenda 10/9-11](#)

[Interim Committee Calendar](#)

[Interim Committee Webcasts](#)

[New Mexico Legislature](#)





## Key Deadlines and Submission Dates for Government Relations.

There are numerous opportunities to support students, as well as academic and research programs, through state and federal funding. It's essential for the university community to be aware of these opportunities and their associated deadlines. Keep in mind that deadlines can shift, and sometimes funding opportunities may be added or removed. We encourage you to reach out to our office with any questions or to explore how we can assist in your efforts to support our students, the university, the community, and the state.

This summary below outlines key deadlines and important dates for New Mexico State University's government relations activities, including submissions for capital projects, research funding, and special appropriations. It serves as a timeline for coordinating and ensuring timely submissions to state and federal agencies, as well as internal university reviews and approvals.

### Deadlines and Due Dates

#### Capital Outlay

- May 29** Board of Regents approval of Five-Year Capital Plan
- June 3** New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED) Five-Year Capital Plan Submission Due Date
- August 6** HED Summer Hearings

#### Research and Public Service Projects (RPSPs)

- June 19** Due date for submission of Research and Public Service Projects to the Office of Government and Community Relations
- July 18-19** Tentative date for University System Budget Committee hearings (Review Only)
- July 25** Tentative date for President review and approval of Research and Public Service Projects
- July 31** Tentative date for Regents Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee hearings (Review and Subcommittee Approval)
- August 15** Tentative Date for Board of Regents meeting (Approval of RPSPs by Regents, with signature of Regent Chair required)  
Sept. 15 Deadline
- Oct. 15** Tentative date for Higher Education RPSP Hearings

#### Special Appropriations

- Sept. 2** Deadline for submission to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

#### Congressionally Directed Spending

- Oct. 1** Tentative Date for Request for NMSU system submissions
- Dec. 1** Deadline for submissions to Office of Vice President for Research and Office of Government and Community Relations
- Dec. 15** Council of Associate Deans for Research evaluation and review meeting

#### Individual Capital Outlay

- Jan. 11, 2025** Tentative date for submission of requests via Legislative Council Service website

#### Junior Bill

- Jan.-March 2025** Due date is established during the Legislative Session