



Oct. 10, 2024

# Monthly Newsletter

Issue #2



## Aggie Mixer Brings State Legislators and University Leadership Together

The Office of Government and Community Relations hosted an Aggie-Lobo Legislative Kickoff and Mixer, where elected officials and university leadership gathered to discuss upcoming legislative initiatives, share campus updates, and strengthen relationships ahead of the Aggie-Lobo rivalry game.

[Read more here.](#)



Image Source: NMSU Photo Archive

## Federal Grant Opportunities for NMSU

Discover key federal grants that can support NMSU's research, academic programs, and community outreach. Learn more about available funding from major agencies.

[Read more here.](#)



Image Source: NMSU Newsroom, NMSU College of Education to receive nearly \$3.5 million in federal funding for scholarships

**“Prioritization”** by Clayton Abbey, AVP of Government and Community Relations



Image Source: Clyde Mueller/Santa Fe New Mexican via AP News

Senator John Arthur Smith, a hero to many in the State of New Mexico, passed away on Monday, October 7, 2024. The Senator was widely known as a moderate Democrat with a disciplined fiscal conservatism that placed needs before wants and good policy over partisanship. He was committed to working across the aisle, developing consensus, and focusing on outcomes and measurable, positive impact on New Mexicans. His legacy will certainly be his stewardship of the state’s finances through periods of minimal revenue growth, market crashes,

and multiple vetoes of the state’s budget (including the entire higher education appropriation). Over the years, he quietly helped New Mexico become one of the first states to bring all-day kindergarten to students, implement universal pre-K, and create an early childhood trust fund. He also was a tremendous supporter of New Mexico State University during his years in office.

Senator Smith leaves behind a superb example of how to manage challenging financial times while still maintaining priorities and delivering in critical areas. Our university system is frequently presented with the same challenge: limited financial resources versus immense wants and needs. Across our various colleges, we have backlogs of deferred maintenance, much-needed renovations, and structures requiring demolition. These needs compete with our desire to make new investments that will help us attract and retain students and remain relevant in the ever-evolving global economy. This will inevitably require us to say “no” to more ideas, rather than yes, and it will require that we circle back and ask ourselves, “What are our key priorities?”

The same applies to our research efforts, our academic offerings, our student services, and our athletics programs. There is no shortage of requests for funding from across the system and this then necessitates some culling down, some selectivity, and some prioritization. Our leadership has made a strong pronouncement here by making funding to significantly raise faculty salaries and graduate assistant support a top priority. Additionally, through capital outlay and Research and Public Service Project funding, we are prioritizing: a successful student success effort (College Assistance Migrant Program), our agricultural, land-grant mission (operational funding for the Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, as well as infrastructure funding for the Agricultural Science Centers), our research capabilities (Produced Water), and our women’s athletic programs. Collectively, these priorities will help students, support our core mission, and set us up for success for years to come.

We will remember Senator John Arthur Smith for his public service and commitment to making the hard decisions that put New Mexicans first. We honor his legacy by attempting to emulate the example he set.





## Federal Grants Advisory: Grant Opportunities for NMSU

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Our office remains committed to identifying and securing grant opportunities that align with the university system's research priorities. In today's competitive funding landscape, it's crucial for our faculty and researchers to stay informed about potential sources of financial support. Below, we've highlighted some promising federal grants that are particularly relevant to the impactful research we conduct. These opportunities not only enhance our capabilities but also foster innovation and collaboration across disciplines. Whether you're involved in scientific research, educational initiatives, or community outreach, there may be a grant here that can help propel your work forward.

### ACES:

- **Agency:** National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
**Grant Program:** Specialty Crop Research Initiative  
**Funding Information:** \$75,440,000  
**Deadline:** November 8, 2024

### HEST:

- **Agency:** National Science Foundation  
**Grant Program:** Discovery Research PreK-12 Program Resource Center on Transformative Education Research and Translation  
**Funding Information:** \$5,000,000  
**Deadline:** February 28, 2025

### Arts & Sciences:

- **Agency:** U.S. Geological Survey  
**Grant Program:** The Educational Component of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program  
**Funding Information:** \$150,000 Award Ceiling  
**Deadline:** January 14, 2025

### Disclaimer:

*While this edition highlights federal grant opportunities relevant to a select few of our colleges, we recognize the diverse range of work happening across the university. In our next edition, we will feature grant opportunities and updates tailored to other colleges and relevant areas within NMSU. More to come as we continue to provide valuable resources that support innovation and growth across the entire university system.*



## NMSU Initiative for Congressional Internships in D.C.: Latest Updates and Progress

New Mexico State University (NMSU) recently launched its Legislative Internship Series, part of the university's effort to connect students with meaningful legislative internship opportunities in local offices, Santa Fe, and Washington, D.C. This initiative provides students with the knowledge necessary to navigate the application process and succeed in government roles, while also allowing the broader community to engage with NMSU's commitment to fostering future leaders. We are beginning things by focusing on federal opportunities through congressional internships

### September Session Highlights

The first session, held on September 24, featured a distinguished panel of speakers who brought diverse perspectives from the world of government. Panelists included:

- **Ashley Beyer**, Southern Regional Director for Senator Martin Heinrich and NMSU Alumni
- **Rene Romo**, Field Representative for Senator Ben Ray Luján
- **Aaron Trujillo**, CEO of Vertice Advocacy
- **Alicia Hicks**, Intern for Senator Ben Ray Luján and NMSU Alumni

These panelists shared valuable insights on the legislative internship experience, covering topics such as the application process, the day-to-day duties of interns, and the challenges of living in Santa Fe and Washington, D.C. They also emphasized the importance of networking and building relationships in government roles.

### Student Engagement

The event saw enthusiastic participation, with 64 students attending the sessions throughout the day. The students left with a deeper understanding of the value of public service internships and a clearer path toward pursuing opportunities at the state and national levels.

### Upcoming October Session

The Legislative Internship Series will continue on Wednesday, October 16, offering additional opportunities for students to learn about legislative internships.

Details for the Next Session:

- **Date: 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 at both sessions**



Legislative Internship Series, September 24th Afternoon Session. 39 NMSU students in attendance.



Left to right: Citlalli Benitez, Ashley Beyer. On Zoom: Aaron Trujillo, Alicia Hicks



## **NMSU Initiative for Congressional Internships in D.C.: Latest Updates and Progress (cont.)**

As NMSU continues its mission to develop engaged citizens, the NMSU Alumni Foundation has launched a giving campaign to support the Aggie Internship Pipeline to D.C.. Led by Dr. Sylvia Acosta, this initiative provides students with valuable public service opportunities. Community members can contribute by donating to this campaign ([click here](#)), helping ensure the future success of our students in government roles.

Stay tuned for more updates as we support the growth of aspiring public servants who will soon contribute to the legislative landscape of New Mexico and beyond.

## **GO Bond to Support Higher Education on November Ballot**

The 2024 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act would issue nearly \$230 million in general obligation bonds for institutions of higher education, special schools and tribal schools in New Mexico. The bond issue request includes more than \$50.5 million for campuses across the New Mexico State University system, including \$20 million for steam and electrical infrastructure upgrades and \$15 million for agricultural science centers across the state. NMSU-Alamogordo, NMSU-Grants and Dona Ana Community College would also receive funding for campus-wide infrastructure improvements and renovations. A separate bond issue for libraries will provide \$6 million statewide for university library resources, of which the NMSU system will receive a portion. This bond is more than just a financial tool; it's an opportunity to make targeted improvements that will enhance our public infrastructure, improve essential services, and elevate the quality of our university system for everyone.

### **What is a General Obligation Bond?**

A General Obligation Bond is a form of municipal borrowing that allows local governments to raise funds for large-scale public projects. Unlike other funding sources, a GO bond is backed by the full faith and credit of the community, meaning it's repaid through property taxes over time. This makes it a secure way to fund vital projects without having to increase general taxes.

### **OTHER RESOURCES:**

Click the link below to learn more about the Nov. 5th, 2024 Ballot:

**2024 General  
Election Voter  
Guide**



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

NMSU is honored to host the Courts, Corrections, and Justice (CCJ) Committee on our main campus in October. This session provides a unique opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and the broader community to engage with the legislative process and gain insight into key issues affecting New Mexico’s justice system. We welcome listeners from across the NMSU community to attend and observe the discussions.

### Courts, Corrections, and Justice Committee

- **Dates:** October 9th-11th
- **Time:** 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- **Location:** Stan Fulton Center

The CCJ Committee will focus on shaping policies related to the state's justice system, including criminal justice reform, corrections, and legal affairs. Discussions will cover legislative initiatives aimed at improving the efficiency and fairness of New Mexico’s judicial system. Key items include Housing and Public Safety Solutions, Detention Facilities, and Healthcare. This three-day session offers an excellent educational opportunity to witness the legislative process in action and learn more about the work being done to address justice-related issues in the state.

We encourage all interested members of the NMSU community to attend this important event. Your presence and engagement are highly valued as we host this significant legislative committee on our campus.

### OTHER RESOURCES:

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

[Interim Committee Calendar](#)

[Interim Committee Webcasts](#)

[New Mexico Legislature](#)



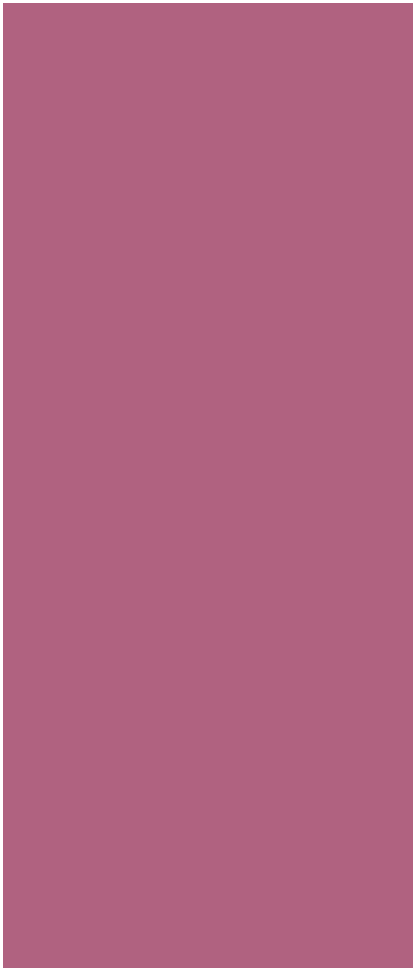


## Aggie Mixer Brings State Legislators and University Leadership Together

NMSU hosted key members of the New Mexico State Legislature on campus prior to the NMSU/UNM football rivalry game on September 28th. Regent Chair Devasthali, Interim President Torres and the Office of Government & Community Relations presented a preview of the University's FY26 legislative initiatives.

The event provided an opportunity to highlight Research and Public Service Projects and Capital Outlay priorities that had previously been approved by the Board of Regents and NMSU Leadership, but will need legislative support to get successfully funded during the upcoming legislative session. Our office also covered other important needs identified by leadership including faculty and grad assistant compensation, athletics, artificial intelligence, information technology, and student retention efforts.

Attending legislators then shared their perspectives on local, regional, and state priorities, and expectations for the upcoming legislative session. The event was the first of what we hope to make more frequent interactions between leadership and legislators to better coordinate our needs and priorities of those of our elected officials.



Left to right, front row: Senator Ron Griggs, Interim President Monica Torres, Representative Joanne Ferrary, Senator Crystal Diamond-Brantley, Representative Luis Terrazas, Representative Raymundo Lara, Regent Chair Ammu Devasthali, Regent Deborah Romero.  
Left to right, back row: Representative Brian Baca, Senator Cliff Pirtle, Senator Bill Soules, Senator Jeff Steinborn, Representative Nathan Small



Regent Chair Ammu Devasthali providing opening remarks at the Aggie-Lobo Legislative Kick-Off and Mixer



## 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





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## Stay Connected With Us!

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Our team at the Office of Government and Community Relations is always here to support the NMSU community. Whether you have questions about government processes, are seeking guidance on building relationships with elected officials, or need assistance navigating legislative matters, don't hesitate to reach out. We value your input and are committed to being a resource for students, faculty, administrators, and staff. Your feedback helps us tailor our efforts to better serve Aggie Nation.

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