Hello everyone,

Welcome to In the Spotlight, a new monthly feature dedicated to a different department each month. The first edition of each month will be dedicated to one department and for February we are featuring African American Student Services.

Enjoy! - Tim

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The mission of African American Student Services is to recruit, retain, and uplift the Black student population at UNM by providing educational discourse, leadership development, holistic wellness, and community engagement. We support students in realizing their full potential self through collaborative advocacy, intentional allyships, and the exploration of the many facets of Blackness. As an essential resource, AASS contributes to the University's commitment to a diverse campus culture by appreciating and creating space for Black student scholars to thrive.

MISSION

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

“If you know whence you came, there is really no limit to where you can go.” —James Baldwin

African American Student Services has themed our year, “It Takes a Village.” On our calendar you will see a mix of past and present students featured. Our programming throughout the month will highlight our uniquely diverse Black student scholar community. We plan to take a deep dive into identity, explore ways to center wellness & self care, and affirm our Black Excellence throughout the month and beyond.

When you hear, “It Takes a Village to Raise a Child” we hope you will reflect on all those who have assisted you in getting to where you are now. And that you will reflect on the journey of your ancestors and their resiliency, creativity, brilliance, and strength that was passed down to you.

Happy Black History Month!

Ned James has served as our ZEAL (Zest for Excellence in Athletics and Learning) coordinator for the past 4 years. He has worked hard to increase collaboration between African American Student Services and Athletics and as a result we continue to see a growing cohort for our ZEAL program. “Ned found me and sent me over” is usually the first thing student athletes say when they walk in, more importantly though, they leave saying, “I’m glad Ned sent me over. I’m excited to get involved.” - and they do!

As a former UNM Student Athlete and NFL coach, he understands the unique needs of student athletes as part of his lived experiences. As a result, Ned works hard to connect students to the “fro” and with mentors in the community that can assist in the academic, professional, and cultural development of our student athlete population. We appreciate his hard work on campus and in the community.

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Josephus (Joe) Long Scholarship Fund is named in honor of Josephus (Joe) Long, the first Black Student Union President at UNM in 1967. The purpose of the scholarship fund is to honor Joe for his leadership and commitment to equality in the field of education for Black students. He attended UNM from the fall of 1967 to the fall of 1969 and majored in Art Education. He received a Master of Arts degree from UNM on June 3, 1970.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Ned James, ZEAL Coordinator

Black Alumni Josephus “Joe” Long Scholarship applications open in June 2022