

Aine McCarthy

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- 12 years in direct service with relationship violence survivors, incarcerated, in recovery, and unhoused populations
- Professional affiliate of NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, and attended three annual conferences (virtual in 2021, Baltimore in 2022, Boston 2023) and presenting at New Mexico NASPA in May 2023
- Trained in victim advocacy best practices by National Organization of Victim Assistance (40 hours); the New Mexico Coalition to Stop Domestic Violence (40 hours), the Clery Center and VAWA Technical Assistance and Training (four times a year); Advocacy in Action conference; Tech Safety Conference, Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, NM Transgender Resource Center, and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners in Albuquerque
- Skilled in Motivational Interviewing, trauma-informed, strengths-based recovery approaches, mindfulness and yoga
- Demonstrated strength in grant-writing, fundraising, and professional writing for publication
- Expert in creating and leading workshops, public presentations, ongoing programming, and event planning
- Highly experienced in leadership and collaboration, multitasking, project management, and multicultural sensitivity

EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Creative Writing, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM *Aug. 2023-Expected Graduation: May 2025*

- Currently enrolled, 12 credits completed over the last two years, Creative Nonfiction track under Prof. Greg Martin

Buddhist Chaplaincy Training Program, Upaya Institute and Zen Center, Santa Fe, NM *March 2012 - March 2014*

- Ordained by Roshi Joan Halifax, completed masters-level thesis: "Release, Receive; Return: Introducing the Labyrinth as a Contemplative Resource At Santa Fe County Adult Detention Facility." There is a total of 1,515 contact hours for this program and it is recognized as M.Div. equivalent training for the Association of Professional Chaplains.

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT *May, 2010*

- Participated in Buddhist Studies in India via Antioch Education Abroad in Bodh Gaya, India, lived for a semester in Burmese monastery. Completed three-week independent study conducting interviews with Tibetan lamas in Himalayan colony of Bir about the traditional use of the mandala as a cosmological map.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Interim Director, Women's Resource Center, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM *Mar 2022-Present*

- Led team in hiring for 12+ positions in less than a year, built shared vision, resulting in receiving Outstanding Pack Department Louie Award from Student Affairs. Serve as co-chair of Victim Services SMART Team. Established Nurture and Thrive Fund for student survivors and supervised advocacy team supporting 160+ students.

Director, Chrysalis, Santa Fe, NM *Jan 2018 - May 2021*

- Designed small nonprofit to support programs for women recovering from violence and incarceration. Created and led Winged Women weekly program for survivors at Esperanza Shelter; this group presented a workshop at the New Mexico Leaders in Mindfulness Conference and shared written work at Albuquerque Zine Fest in 2019; received funding from the Pollination Project to create a permanent labyrinth at DV Shelter

Chaplaincy Program Co-Director Upaya Zen Center, Santa Fe, NM *June 2013 - Mar 2017*

- Managed admissions, coordinated all logistics for biannual training intensives with visiting faculty, and tracked academic engagement for 40-50 students in the Professional Chaplaincy Training Program for three years full time
- Served as newsletter editor and wrote content for blog and social media for Upaya for seven years total through 2020

Board of Directors, Labyrinth Resource Group of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM *Jan 2012 - 2017*

- Facilitated public labyrinth walks, organize community events and workshops, conducted board meetings

Student Representative, Connecticut State Board of Education, Hartford, CT *2005-2006*

- Appointed by Governor for one-year term as one of two student representatives for state. Served on Legislative Bylaws & Policy subcommittees. Wrote legislation creating pathways for anonymous reporting of bullying.

ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE

Campus Advocate, *UNM Women's Resource Center at Vassar House*, Albuquerque, NM Nov 2020 – Mar 2022

- Provided victim support services for students at UNM's Health Sciences Center, Law School, and Main Campus accompanying students through every stage of the Title IX/CEEO and police investigative and hearing processes.
- Co-Chaired the Prevention Education Working Group delivering programming to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking as part of UNM's Coordinated Community Response Team, created trainings for campus and community groups on tech-enabled abuse, and red flags of stalking behaviors, brought Adam Dodge of EndTAB.org.

Yoga & Mindfulness Instructor for Relapse Prevention

Mar 2016 - Mar 2020

Santa Fe Recovery Center, Santa Fe Drug Court, & Mesa Vista Wellness of New Mexico, Santa Fe, NM

- Led recurring eight-week courses for court-referred clients on Probation and Parole through SF Drug Court
- Supported team of facilitators to offer respective weekly meditation and yoga courses at SF Recovery Center
- Taught weekly public yoga class for all levels and facilitated weekly meditation group for beginners at Mesa Vista
- Offered monthly wellness session for clients of Mesa Vista in Intensive Outpatient Program for recovery

Seasonal Night Staff, *Interfaith Community Shelter*, Santa Fe, NM

Oct 2011 - April 2012

- Welcomed nightly guests, managed women's dorm safety, performed security checks, managed frequent emergencies

Volunteer, *Santa Fe County Adult Detention Facility*, Santa Fe, NM

2011 - 2017

- Offered weekly Stress Management classes based on the Path of Freedom: a Mindfulness-Based Emotional Awareness program based on training by the Prison Mindfulness Institute, installed permanent labyrinth as in collaboration with incarcerated women; created writing curriculum for men based on work of Jimmy Santiago Baca

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND PRESS

[NOVA, UNM to announce new victim assistance group](#), April 2023

[GEO specialist recognized by Women's Resource Center](#), April 2023

[UNM recognizes Sexual Assault Awareness Month with event lineup](#), April 2023

[Call for exceptional UNM women nominations](#), March 2023

[Helping women in STEM prioritize themselves](#), March 2023

[UNM students advocate for sexual assault victim legislation](#), March 2023

[Campus collaboration to debut closed door resources](#), February 2023

[Women's Resource Center training opportunity to close](#), December 2022

[UNM's Mental Health Collaborative: resources for all](#), November 2022

[UNM Women's Resource Center receives \\$300,000 grant to further protect campus](#), October 2022

[UNM offers support to students after overturning of Roe v. Wade](#), July 2022

[Women's Resource Center provides support, advocacy](#), July 2022

[Stalking incidences went up by 33% on UNM campuses](#), KRQE, Brittany Bade, 2021

[Vassar House Advocacy Center Health Cast](#), September 2021

“Through the Door: Movement, Meditation, and Healing,” short film by [Healing Voices Personal Stories](#) documenting a project I helped facilitate with DV survivors in Santa Fe introducing meditation and movement as healing tools, 2018

“What we learned from working with women in prison,” [TEDx Albuquerque Women](#), talk with JoAnne Tucker, 2016

May 1, 2023

Dear Hiring Committee Colleagues,

I'm excited to have this chance to apply to be the Director of the Women's Resource Center (WRC), and in the process, I'd like to share more with you about my background, my guiding values, and my wholehearted dedication to the collaborative leadership work I've been involved with at UNM.

When I applied for my first role at the WRC as Campus Advocate, I wrote, "It is my greatest joy and fiercest commitment to work alongside women on journeys of healing and empowerment. I have a background in working with individuals in crisis and survivors of domestic violence." That ethic continues to be at the heart of what drives my work, now as Interim Director of the WRC, almost three years later. My greatest joys and fiercest commitments have become to protect and nurture the space, to welcome people into it and to all that we offer, to make it an incubator for student initiatives that make people safer and more connected on campus, to be an advocate for survivors at the individual and the systems level, and to serve as a mentor and thought partner to all of our staff.

I hope to continue to lead this office for the same reason I first was drawn to work in this environment: providing trauma support services, advocacy, and empowering learning opportunities are central themes in my life. This work is deeply aligned with what I have been devoted to since my own college years. In the course of ten years in Santa Fe, I worked the night shift in an emergency shelter; ran an arts and advocacy group for survivors of domestic violence; and created therapeutic mindfulness and yoga-based programming for people in prison, in rehab and in Drug Court, on probation and parole. All of this was an expression of my professional training in chaplaincy with a foundation in Buddhist practice and systems theory. What I learned from this approach to service is the capacity to sit with people through their suffering and hold a steady presence, to encounter people and systems with compassion. As co-director of the chaplaincy training at Upaya Zen Center, I also gained considerable experience as an administrator: for three years, I was effectively the director of admissions, the primary academic/thesis advisor for two concurrent cohorts of up to 50 students each year and the coordinator for the biannual intensives bringing together visiting faculty, staff, and the students who came from all over the world. When I moved on from that role, they split it into three—an experience that prepared me in many ways for the multi-faceted work I found my way into here at UNM.

In the year-plus I spent working in advocacy on North Campus at Vassar House, I got engaged with and enjoyed many aspects of WRC's work and programming. I got to know and work directly with all the victim service providers in Albuquerque and the network of resources available for students on Main campus, at the Health Sciences Center and at the Law School. I became intimately familiar with the Title IX, and hearing processes as they were reformulated under the 2020 regulations. I understand well the nuances of being a confidential site and staying in compliance with the Clery Act. I became passionate about Prevention Education and the work of creating trainings to share best practices in safety and sexual violence prevention with students, staff, law enforcement, and community partner agencies. From this, I was touched forever by the amazing resilience of the students I got to work with closely; I fell in love with the work of helping them overcome barriers to success. Their stories are theirs to tell, but I'm so abundantly proud of the student survivors I've accompanied through different stretches of the hell realms of their trauma healing and justice processes. They remain at the center of my commitment to the work of WRC and their trust in us at the heart of why the center exists.

The past fifteen months as Interim Director has been an experience of learning as much as I can every day about all the other aspects of the life of the center, the remarkable people and broader scope of

Student Affairs, and all the administrative systems of UNM. We applied for and received Continuation funding from the Office of Violence Against Women for our work preventing and improving response to dating/domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We founded a new partnership with the National Organization of Victim Assistance, creating pathways for our students into service with the Youth Advocacy Corps. We piloted the Social Work Internship program and expanded WRC Counseling in partnership with El Centro (and ARC starting August of 2023) to form the multicultural Mental Health Collaborative. This effort provides free, bilingual counseling and case management services to students at UNM. I marked WRC's 50th year by establishing the Nurture and Thrive Fund to provide emergency scholarships for survivors and by commissioning a UNM alumnus to create a mural in our entryway, capturing the intersectional values we carry forward from the feminists that came before us.

Through this really challenging and exciting year, I have learned and grown so much as a leader and a supervisor. I have dug deep and done whatever was necessary to keep the center going and my staff able to keep serving our students. And it isn't over: we know there will be more challenges ahead. But the greatest pride I feel is in the growth I see on our team, the way we have grown our skills and our shared vision. In the strategic planning and visioning process I facilitated for our team last summer, the goals we identified that synthesize our mission in serving the UNM community are to:

1. **Prevent and mitigate the impact of gender-based violence and racialized trauma.** This includes the wraparound service model we offer through advocacy, counseling, and social work-- the Mental Health Collaborative, and our coalition-building through the NOVA partnership and the Coordinated Community Response Team and its working groups of Sexual Misconduct & Assault Response Team (SMART) Prevention Education, Engaging Men and Masculine People, Student Conduct, N. Campus, and the Student Advisory Board.
2. **Provide support and resources to student leaders working toward fostering a more equitable learning environment.** This includes supporting our undergrad and graduate student Program Assistants creating trainings and program offerings in the areas of Women in STEM, Women in Health, IMPACT Mentorship and Leadership, and Supporting Student Parents.
3. **Create programming that fosters joyful community space.** This includes our intention to be able to meet crises skillfully without being in crisis ourselves. It also includes newer drop-in style groups and programs we are offering, partnering with sororities, other resource centers, DEI, Anderson School's Women in Leadership board, and student groups.

My heart is in this work. And there is so much in motion in each of these areas, at different stages of sprouting and taking root. I think it's in the best interest for the life cycle of the center for me to continue to be a part of helping to cultivate growth towards these goals for the WRC team and the community we serve at UNM. I hope for the opportunity to talk with you more about the lessons learned, the opportunities I see for the future to be of service and in collaboration on the Student Affairs Leadership Team. I am proud to say I would be honored to carry this leadership role forward and have the chance to get better at it, and build on the infrastructure we've put together in the past year, of staff, programs, shared values, and relationships. I appreciate your dedication in the time you are offering to the future of WRC by serving on this committee.

Thank you for considering me for the ongoing role of Director.

With great admiration and gratitude,
Áine McCarthy