



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS SHOWCASE

2026

EVENT PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026
8 - 11 a.m.
JACKSON STUDENT CENTER

ABOUT THE EVENT

Welcome to our inaugural Division of Student Affairs Showcase! We are thrilled to gather as a division to celebrate the creativity, collaboration, and meaningful impact that define our work with students at the University of New Mexico. This event reflects the dedication and innovation of our colleagues across all 18 units, who are committed to enhancing the student experience in thoughtful and transformative ways.

Throughout the showcase, you will see presentations that highlight a wide range of efforts, including assessment projects, progress on our strategic plan, and new initiatives that are making a difference in the lives of our students. Each presentation represents not only the hard work of individual teams, but also our shared commitment to student success, belonging, and well-being.

In addition to celebrating these accomplishments, this event is an opportunity to learn from one another, spark new ideas, and strengthen connections across the division. We hope you leave inspired by the innovation happening throughout Student Affairs and energized to continue building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Thank you for being part of this exciting new tradition and for all that you do to support UNM students! Go Lobos!

EVENT MAP & SESSION LOCATIONS

This event and all breakout sessions will be hosted at the Jackson Student Center, located in the Graduate School of Management (GSM) building.

The physical address of this building is
1920 Las Lomas Rd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106.

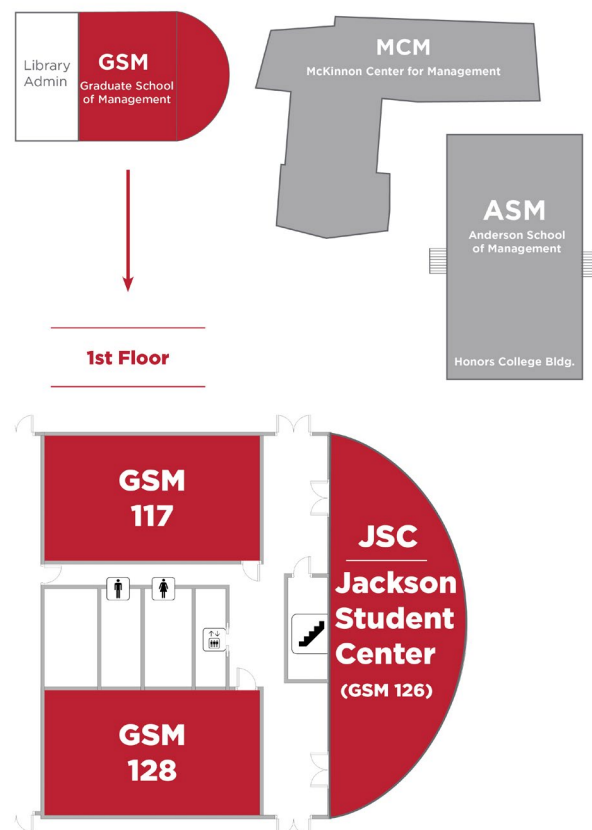
You can find specific directions to the building using the Interactive Campus Map.

All sessions will take place on the first floor of the building. Restrooms are also located on the first floor near GSM 117.

When you arrive, please check-in at the Jackson Student Center (GSM 126).

Posters will be displayed along the glass walls of the Jackson Student Center for the duration of the event.

Breakout sessions will take place in GSM 117, GSM 128, and GSM 126. See event schedule for specific session locations.



EVENT SCHEDULE

Time	Description		Duration	Room
8:00 am	Breakfast & Networking Poster Session Opens		1 hour	GSM 126
9:00 am	Welcome Remarks & Year In Review Presentation		15 min	GSM 126
9:15 am	Poster Session Projects Overview		5 min	GSM 126
9:20 am	Breakout Session 1	Counter-storytelling as a Well-being and Student Success Strategy	30 min	GSM 117
		AASS Black Student Belonging Project	30 min	GSM 128
		Beyond a Welcome: Turning Student Onboarding into a Retention Strategy	30 min	GSM 126
9:50 am	Break/Transition		5 min	
9:55 am	Breakout Session 2	Peer Learning Facilitator Program: A Unique Collaboration between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs	15 min	GSM 117
		Integrating Anxiety Strategies into Career Planning and Development Support for Students	15 min	GSM 128
		CARE Referral trends and the CARE data Dashboard	15 min	GSM 126
10:10 am	Break/Transition		5 min	
10:15 am	Breakout Session 3	The Student Worker Experience: Skills You Don't See On the Job Posting	15 min	GSM 117
		Leveling Up: Data, Development & Doing Things Differently	15 min	GSM 128
		LoboWell-Being Collective and Well-being Insight Report	15 min	GSM 126
10:30 am	Break/Transition		5 min	
10:35 am	Breakout Session 4	Using Assessment to Strengthen Student Affairs Outcomes	15 min	GSM 117
		Doom Scrolling, Reimagined: Engaging Students Through Social Media	15 min	GSM 128
10:50 am	Closing Remarks Poster Session Closes		10 min	GSM 126

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you required any special accommodations to help ensure your full participation in the event, please indicate your needs on the RSVP form or email vpsa@unm.edu with more detailed information.

SESSION ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC GOALS

All sessions in this showcase are intentionally aligned with the division’s strategic plan goals, demonstrating how our collective work advances shared priorities and contributes to student success. The dots in the table below indicate goal alignment based on color.

- Goal 1 - Student Engagement and Success
- Goal 2 - Health & Well-Being
- Goal 3 - Inclusive Excellence
- Goal 4 - Community Vibrancy
- Goal 5 - Employee Excellence
- Goal 6 - Operational Effectiveness

Learn more about our Strategic Plan by scanning the QR Code.



SESSION TITLE	UNIT PRESENTERS	DSA STRATEGIC GOAL ALIGNMENT
Transforming Clinical Counseling Training Through Community-Engagement & Culturally Responsive Care	Mental Health Collaborative El Centro de la Raza Women’s Resource Center	● ●
Investing in our Lobos: Emergency Scholarships as a Tool for Student Persistence	Dean of Students	● ●
Baseline & Brainstorm: Progress on Year 1 of DSA Strategic Plan Implementation	Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs	● ● ● ● ● ●
AASS Black Student Belonging Project	African American Student Services	●
Counter-storytelling as a Well-Being and Student Success Strategy	Community Engagement Center Women’s Resource Center El Centro de la Raza Asian American Pacific Islander Resource Center	● ●
Beyond a Welcome: Turning Student Onboarding Into a Retention Strategy	College Enrichment and Outreach Programs	● ● ●
Peer Learning Facilitator Program: A Unique Collaboration between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs	College Enrichment and Outreach Programs	● ● ● ●
Integrating Anxiety Strategies into Career Planning and Development Support for Students	Career Services	● ● ●
CARE Referral Trends and the CARE Data Dashboard	Dean of Students	● ●
The Student Worker Experience: Skills You Don’t See On the Job Posting	Career Services	● ● ● ●
Leveling Up: Data, Development & Doing Things Differently	American Indian Student Services	● ●
LoboWell-Being Collective and Well-being Insight Report	Dean of Students Student Health and Counseling	●
Using Assessment to Strengthen Student Affairs Outcomes	Student Union Building	● ● ● ● ● ●
Doom Scrolling, Reimagined: Engaging Students Through Social Media	American Indian Student Services	●

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

WELCOME REMARKS & YEAR IN REVIEW PRESENTATION 9:00 am to 9:15 am (15 min)

Kick off the 2026 Division of Student Affairs Showcase with opening remarks from our Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Eric Scott, that will set the stage for the day, highlighting the purpose of the event, celebrating the division's collective efforts, and connecting this work to our shared commitment to advancing the strategic plan and enhancing the student experience.

Following our opening, join Tina Zuniga, DSA Strategic Support Manager, for a brief assessment year in review presentation highlighting key accomplishments within student affairs assessment and strategic plan implementation.

POSTER SESSION - 8:00 am to 11:00 am (3 hours)

Poster Title	Transforming Clinical Counseling Training Through Community-Engagement & Culturally Responsive Care
Authors	Ivette Acevedo Weatherholtz , Mental Health Collaborative Thomas A. Chavez , School of Medicine, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Rosa Isela Cervantes , El Centro de la Raza Áine McCarthy , Women's Resource Center
Location	GSM 126
Description	Despite the vast demand for culturally and linguistically responsive mental health services among minoritized communities, the mental health fields continue to fail to incorporate the resources necessary to fill this gap (McCaffrey & Moody, 2015; Seto & Forth, 2020). The need for such services is particularly evident within field education placements as they often lack diverse caseloads and experiential learning opportunities to build multicultural and social justice clinical competence (Crumb et al., 2018; Delgado-Romero et al., 2021). This poster will display the training components of an interprofessional mental health internship model serving the complex intersectional identities of Latine students within various cultural student resource centers at the University of New Mexico (UNM). Through the lens of critical frameworks and paradigms, the MHC training model is focused on decolonizing clinical training by 1) providing linguistically/ethno-racially/culturally centered professional development opportunities for mental health students 2) improving Latine student mental health (reducing ethno-racial trauma and improving a sense of belongingness) and educational outcomes, and 3) filling the training gap in multi-and intercultural experiential learning opportunities within the mental health fields by offering a short-term immersion trip to Central Mexico. The MHC model aims to address current diversity, equity, and accessibility issues within mental health while investing in future mental health providers to be equipped to serve the Albuquerque community and beyond.

POSTER SESSION - 8:00 am to 11:00 am (3 hours)

Poster Title	Investing in our Lobos: Emergency Scholarships as a Tool for Student Persistence
Authors	Graeme Nicholl , Dean of Students
Location	GSM 126
Description	Post-secondary students have been grappling with the increasing cost of higher education for many years. In today's financial climate, earning one's degree is made significantly more challenging by the pressure of a growing cost-of-living crisis. The Dean of Students Emergency Scholarship Program began in 2023 as a method of reducing students' financial burdens during extenuating circumstances that could lead to a stop in their academic pursuits. Starting in Fall 2025, the program was expanded and made available to the entire student body via an accessible online application, receiving over 400 applications and signaling a high level of student financial need. As the program concludes its first full academic year, an opportunity exists to share the successes and challenges of supporting some of our most vulnerable Lobos while reinforcing the program's critical position in the Division of Student Affairs' suite of student services.

Poster Title	Baseline & Brainstorm: Progress on Year 1 of DSA Strategic Plan Implementation
Authors	Tina Zuniga , Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs
Location	GSM 126
Description	This 7-poster series highlights Year 1 progress on the implementation of the Student Affairs five-year strategic plan, with each poster focusing on a distinct strategic goal. Each poster provides an overview of goal-specific initiatives, early accomplishments, and key insights from the first year, offering a collective view of how the division is translating strategic priorities into action and laying the foundation for continued progress over the life of the plan.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 - 9:20 am to 9:50 am (30 min)

Session Title	AASS Black Student Belonging Project
Presenter	Brandi Stone , African American Student Services
Location	GSM 128
Description	This session offers a concise overview of the Black Student Belonging Project, sharing the approach, key findings, and practical lessons learned. Participants will gain insight into how we examined Black students' experiences within a Hispanic Serving Institution, what we discovered through the process, and how these insights can inform student success efforts.

Session Title	Counter-storytelling as a Well-being and Student Success Strategy
Presenters	Kiran Katira , Community Engagement Center Aine McCarthy , Women’s Resource Center Rosa Isela Cervantes , El Centro de la Raza Aaron Tuioti-Mariner , Asian American Pacific Islander Resource Center
Location	GSM 117
Description	Counter storytelling is one of the five major tenants of critical race theory, where storytelling challenges dominant cultural narratives of racially marginalized individuals in communities. This panel will present ways in which counter storytelling can play a role in Student Supports programming for students. Four unit directors within will define critical race theory (CRT) and provide an overview of its key tenets. They will then take the conversation to an intersectional perspective, sharing how they integrate counter storytelling in their respective units to help students, faculty and staff unlearn the myths that are often portrayed about students. The panel presentation will have an interactive component, where panelists and participants will explore ways in which counter storytelling is a well-being strategy that helps student find a sense of belonging, nurture confidence in themselves and take pride in their identity/culture.

Session Title	Beyond a Welcome: Turning Student Onboarding Into a Retention Strategy
Presenters	Jose Villar , College Enrichment and Outreach Programs Margaret Garry , College Enrichment and Outreach Programs Trinidad Mendoza , College Enrichment and Outreach Programs
Location	GSM 126
Description	This session will highlight how College Enrichment & Outreach Programs is using onboarding, data, and cross-campus partnerships with Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management to strengthen student engagement, improve readiness, support yield, and create a stronger foundation for retention before students even begin classes. The session will focus on several efforts currently shaping the New Student Orientation experience, including the NSO Task List, earlier outreach to students and families, and CEOP’s role in the creation of the Rapid Response Team. Participants will see how early student touch points, student readiness data, and intentional follow-up can help identify barriers sooner, connect students to support earlier, and improve the overall transition to UNM. Participants will also leave with a better understanding of how their own student-facing work can support this effort by reducing confusion, improving communication, connecting students to the right resources, and helping students and families feel confident that UNM is the right place for them.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 - 9:55 am to 10:10 am (15 min)

Session Title	Peer Learning Facilitator Program: A Unique Collaboration between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs
Presenters	Christopher Lynch , College Enrichment and Outreach Programs Trinidad Mendoza , College Enrichment and Outreach Programs
Location	GSM 117
Description	The Peer Learning Facilitator Program is a unique collaboration between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs to support typically gateway, high fail rate classes with undergraduate Peer Learning Facilitators. PLFs are students who have been successful in that class and come back to support it and provide near peer mentoring for content, navigating the college experience, and an added support for often newer to college students. In this session, presenters will cover the growth of the program in recent years and discuss its impact on student retention and lowering DFW rates in often intro-level classes.

Session Title	Integrating Anxiety Strategies into Career Planning and Development Support for Students
Presenter	Erin Callahan , Career Services
Location	GSM 128
Description	There has been an increase in students expressing worry about their career decisions and futures, particularly in response to current world events, economic uncertainty, and the rapid rise of AI. Recent surveys and studies suggest this is a national trend, with many students reporting heightened pessimism and anxiety about their career prospects. UNM Career Services is one of several support services students can access to help manage this anxiety. Career Services has long provided education and support around career best practices, including resumes, job searching, interview preparation, and career development. Historically, career counseling in the United States has been closely linked to mental health counseling, and many UNM career professionals are licensed mental health counselors. This professional background strengthens their ability to address the underlying emotional and cognitive factors that influence career development. This session highlights a project focused on helping career staff -- regardless of mental health training -- integrate anxiety-informed strategies into modern career support, which can be adapted across other student affairs units.

GET SUPPORT ON ASSESSMENT PROJECTS!

Want to be a featured presenter in next year's Division of Student Affairs Showcase? Start your planning this summer! Tina Zuniga, DSA Strategic Support Manager, is available to meet with you to brainstorm, design, plan, and implement assessment projects for any student affairs staff. Email zunigat@unm.edu to get connected!

Session Title	CARE Referral Trends and the CARE Data Dashboard
Presenter	Sam Lechuga , Dean of Students Greg Golden , Dean of Students
Location	GSM 126
Description	This session will explore how the CARE Team is leveraging data from the Advocate CARE referral dashboard to better understand student needs and enhance support strategies across campus. By analyzing trends in referral types, concern categories, outreach efforts, and actions taken, the CARE Team has developed a clearer picture of the complexity, volume, and timing of student concerns. Participants will gain insight into key findings, including the most common types of student challenges, patterns in help-seeking behavior, and peak periods during the academic year when students are most likely to need support. The session will also highlight how tracking staff workload, intervention strategies, and follow-up actions can inform more efficient, proactive, and coordinated responses. Attendees will learn how CARE data can be used to identify emerging issues, allocate resources more effectively, and strengthen collaboration among campus partners.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 - 10:15 am to 10:30 am (15 min)

Session Title	The Student Worker Experience: Skills You Don't See On the Job Posting
Presenter	Avangeleen Perea , Career Services Ava Silver , Career Services Eliza Evans , Career Services Magnificent Farrell , Career Services
Location	GSM 117
Description	This session highlights the experiences of an integral component of student affairs: student employees. Four student employees from UNM Career Services will share their motivations for pursuing higher education, along with reflections on their individual career goals and where they envision themselves in the next five years. The presentation will also highlight the students' experiences working in Career Services through the LoboGROW Program, including an overview of the program's purpose and structure. As student participants in the program, presenters will illustrate how LoboGROW supports the development of transferable skills—such as communication, professionalism, and career readiness—that contribute to long-term professional success.

**SUMMER 2026
ASSESSMENT
DROP-IN HOURS**

**VIRTUAL
DROP-IN HOURS
TUESDAYS
8:30 - 10 AM
Microsoft Teams**

**HOWL-TO WEDNESDAYS
IN-PERSON DROP-IN HOURS
WEDNESDAYS
12 - 1:30 PM
Zimmerman Library - 1st Floor**

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 - 10:15 am to 10:30 am (15 min)

Session Title	Leveling Up: Data, Development & Doing Things Differently
Presenter	Uchme Gollette , American Indian Student Services Andrew Yazzie , American Indian Student Services
Location	GSM 128
Description	The session will focus on the importance of gathering meaningful data directly from students and intentionally using that data to inform program improvement, digital storytelling, and strategic planning. The presenters will highlight how centralized digital systems can improve student staff training consistency, documentation, communication, and accountability while supporting employee excellence. Using the American Indian Summer Bridge (AISB) program as a case example, attendees will learn how student feedback can be translated into clear, accessible narratives that demonstrate impact, guide decision making, and support sustainable, culturally responsive programming. Attendees will also learn how SharePoint can be leveraged as an essential tool for student employee training and program operations. Overall, this presentation demonstrates how intentional assessment practices and operational tools can simultaneously enhance student engagement and success while equipping staff with efficient, scalable systems within the Division of Student Affairs.

Session Title	LoboWell-Being Collective and Well-being Insight Report
Presenter	Greg Golden , Dean of Students Benjamin Ferguson , Student Health and Counseling
Location	GSM 126
Description	This session will highlight key findings from the FY25 Well-Being Insight Report and explore how these insights are shaping the development of a coordinated, campus-wide LoboWell-Being Collective at the University of New Mexico. Drawing on both qualitative program inventory data and quantitative results from the ACHA Well-Being Assessment, the session will provide an overview of current strengths, gaps, and emerging priorities across the eight dimensions of wellness. Participants will learn how data-informed decision-making can strengthen institutional approaches to student well-being, improve cross-campus collaboration, and address critical challenges such as basic needs insecurity, disparities among student populations, and gaps in awareness and access to services. The session will also introduce the vision and structure of the LoboWell-Being Collaborative, designed to align partners, enhance coordination, and amplify impact across academic and student affairs. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of UNM's well-being landscape, practical strategies for integrating well-being into their own work, and opportunities to engage in a shared, collaborative approach to supporting the holistic success of students.

BREAKOUT SESSION 4 - 10:35 am to 10:50 am (15 min)

Session Title	Using Assessment to Strengthen Student Affairs Outcomes
Presenter	Emily-Ann Lopez , Student Union Building Dennis-Ray Armijo , Student Union Building
Location	GSM 128
Description	The presentation will be about how the Student Union Building team are utilizing assessment tools, such as exit interviews, wellness surveys, employment surveys, and event feedback, are essential to understand and improve both the student experience and staff experiences. By intentionally collecting and analyzing feedback, these tools help to make data-driven decisions that directly support DSA goals. Exit interviews strengthen retention and help make workplace improvements, wellness surveys monitor staff wellbeing and belonging, employment surveys enhance the work culture and effectiveness, and event feedback surveys ensure that programs are impactful and engaging. Assessment allows the SUB to go further than just assumptions and help take more intentional actions using feedback to make improvements and show the impact.

Session Title	Doom Scrolling, Reimagined: Engaging Students Through Social Media
Presenters	Roderick Lansing , American Indian Student Services Casey Norris , American Indian Student Services Vanisha Neha , American Indian Student Services
Location	GSM 117
Description	This session will highlight strategic social media marketing approaches to connect students to campus resources and support, empowering students to take ownership of their success. Attendees will learn how American Indian Student Services exercises its unique voice, conducts a creation & approval process, and utilizes UNM brand guidelines, including photography, color palette, and fonts, to expand social media reach and engagement. The presenters will also share best practices for spotlighting co-curricular programs using techniques that resonate with diverse student populations across UNM.

CLOSING REMARKS - 10:50 am to 11:00 am (10 min)

Join Tina Zuniga to conclude the showcase with reflections on the day's presentations, key themes, and insights, while recognizing the contributions of presenters and participants and inspiring continued collaboration, innovation, and progress in the year ahead.

During the closing remarks, attendees are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to complete the session & event feedback survey, linked on Page 11 of the Event Program.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our sincere appreciation to the many individuals and teams whose efforts made the inaugural Division of Student Affairs Showcase possible.

Thank you to our division leadership for their vision, guidance, and continued support of innovation and collaboration.

We are deeply grateful to the planning committee for their thoughtful coordination and dedication in bringing this event to life, as well as to our volunteers who are generously contributing their time and energy to ensure a welcoming and seamless experience.

We also thank our presenters for sharing their impactful work, insights, and commitment to enhancing the student experience.

Finally, we appreciate our campus and catering partners for helping create a hospitable environment that allow us to gather, connect, and celebrate together.

SESSION & EVENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

Following the event during the closing session, we encourage all attendees to take a few moments to complete the event feedback survey.

Your perspective plays a critical role in shaping future showcases, strengthening our collective work, and ensuring that this event continues to reflect the needs and ideas of our division. This showcase is built on collaboration and shared ownership—without your feedback, we lose an important opportunity to learn, improve, and grow together.

Please don't let your experience go unheard; your input truly matters and is essential to making next year's event even more meaningful and impactful.



**DIVISION OF
STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**THANK YOU FOR
ATTENDING!**