PAID ADVERTISEMENT

success stories

TAOS COUNTY AND THE MORENO VALLEY

UNM TAOS Bachelor & Graduate Programs

University of New Mexico-Taos: Education for life

14 proud nursing students just received their Bachelors of Science in Nursing degree through the Taos Bachelor and Graduate Programs.

"Our Students are Our Successes." Kate O'Neill, executive director, UNM-Taos

By Sandy Penny

In a rapidly changing world, ongoing education and training are necessary. Jim Gilroy, dean of instruction, says, "It's never too early to prepare for college and never too late to begin a course of study."

University of New Mexico-Taos offers a lifetime of learning. The student demographic includes attendees of all ages who study for many different reasons. Some begin right after high school and pursue an advanced degree. Many enhance their earning power with a career/technical certificate or associate's degree. Others take classes for the pure pleasure of learning or self-improvement.

"We have to think of education as a lifelong process," says Amie Chavez-Aguilar, student advisor, "You can get a degree or just take an interesting class, but don't stop learning."

UNM-Taos offers many excellent educational options right here at home. The local campus is committed to meeting the Taos community's educational needs with affordable study programs. The curriculum is designed to expand student horizons academically, creatively and economically. Many classes provide marketable skills for the local economy. Since education is more necessary to success every year, outreach programs target middle and high school students so that higher education becomes the natural next step.

The Bachelor and Graduate Programs (BGP) in Taos celebrates its 15-year anniversary this year. It started in spring 1993, and since that time, course offerings have continued to expand to offer students a wider range of choices.

"If UNM-Taos had not been here, I probably would not have gone to college because I had a family. The local campus allowed me to earn my associate, bachelor and master's degree in educational leadership right here at home. I also now have a career that I love."

Patricia Gonzales, Student Enrollment Director, UNM-Taos

More than 300 graduates have earned their bachelor and masters degrees since the program began. This year 17 bachelor's and two master's degrees, plus an advanced educational specialist certificate will be awarded at a graduation ceremony on May 16, 6 p.m. in Bataan Hall. Roberta Vigil and Naomi S. Gallegos will receive master's of educational leadership degrees. Andrew S. Haimowitz already has his master's degree and just added an educational specialist certificate. Also being awarded are 30 associate degrees, 15 certificates and a record 89 GEDs.

In 2007 the BGP expanded to include a Bachelor of Science in nursing and new programs in education. Expected future degrees include a bachelor's in business administration. BGP is an extension of UNM main campus. It provides students an opportunity to complete their bachelor's or master's degrees without leaving their hometown. The mixed-delivery system offers courses face-to-face, online and via correspondence and video conference.

In 1993 the Taos campus was considered a learning center. In 2003, it officially became a full-fledged university branch campus. In 1994, UNM-Taos educated about 230 students. Now attendance is around 1,300 annually. To serve the growing student body, new degrees are being added, courses of study are expanding and new buildings are under construction at the Klauer Campus.

The school is grateful to everyone who helped launch the construction of the Child Development Center and the Career Tech Center. In particular, Sen. Carlos Cisneros and Rep. Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales recognized the school's contribution to the local economy and worked hard to navigate the New Mexico legislative system. El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District got onboard to install the sewage line infrastructure. Kit Carson Electric Cooperative will soon implement a solar array that will enable the campus to generate up to 80 percent of its own electrical power requirements.

It's an exciting time for UNM-Taos, and there's no end in sight. The new buildings will be operational by fall, and the long awaited multipurpose classroom building will open in 2009. The all-important infrastructure, from sewer lines to fiber optics, continues toward completion. Faculty members are being recruited. A regional distance education center is in the works. Future programs addressing water and land use, particularly in forestry and agriculture, are being considered.

Gilroy, dean of instruction, says, "The college is fortunate to have this community, and the community is fortunate to have this college."

UNM Taos graduation will be held on May 16, 6:00 pm at Bataan Hall.

Klauer Campus building construction and infrastructure proceeds toward completion.

at a glance

UNM-Taos
115 Civic Plaza Drive,
Taos, NM 87571
http://taos.unm.edu or
http://distance.unm.edu
UNM-Taos Branch (575) 737-6200
Bachelor and Graduate Programs (575) 737-6279

Summer classes begin June 9
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