



# LOS ALAMOS

## Student Services Newsletter

OCTOBER 2025

### YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT: RHEANNA ESPARZA



UNM-LA Student Government is pleased to welcome six student representatives for the 2025-2026 school year. We are planning to publish a profile of each member.

Rheanna was born in El Paso, but she grew up in Las Vegas. She came to Los Alamos when her boyfriend got a job at LANL. She loves the outdoor activities available here, but she is planning to temporarily relocate to go to school at UCSD or Penn State. In San Diego, Rheanna would spend a lot of time at the beach. If they end up moving to Pennsylvania, Rheanna will get a horse.

When she is not studying, Rheanna enjoys hiking, particularly at Las Conchas Trail and Hidden Valley. She has also been lifting weights for three years, and she goes to the gym several times a week to do squat racks or dead lifts.

Rheanna listens to all sorts of music, but she prefers classic rock and folk rock. She likes emotional, heart-felt songs, and she particularly admires the songwriting of the late Townes Van Zandt.

Rheanna is serving her first term as a student government representative, and we appreciate her willingness to serve her school.



# LOS ALAMOS

### IMPORTANT DATES

**October 9-10:** Fall Break. Campus open. No classes

**November 7:** Last day to DROP without Dean's Permission on LoboWEB

**November 27-29:** Thanksgiving. Campus Closed. No classes

**December 5:** Last day to drop with Dean's Permission (talk to your advisor)

**December 24-January 2:** Winter Break (Campus Closed)

**January 19:** Spring semester starts

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: RENAE MITCHELL



National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed September 15-October 15. This month, we would like to honor one of our Latina instructors, Renae Mitchell.

Renae is originally from Shreveport, Louisiana. She earned her first bachelor's degree in graphic design from Louisiana Tech, and she worked as a graphic designer for a while. What made her decide that she wanted to teach was a year-long stint as a teacher of the English language in Japan, after which she enrolled in Louisiana State University and earned a degree in English. She then went on to Pennsylvania State to earn her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, with a minor in Latin American Studies. Her studies focused on early 20th century Latin American epic poetry.

Renae has taught at Pennsylvania State and at UNM-Los Alamos since 2014, and her class offerings have included French, Spanish, Greek Mythology, and various literature and composition classes.

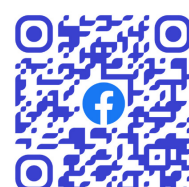
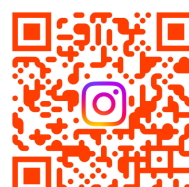
Renae is an avid runner, and she has competed in numerous marathons and half marathons. She is currently not competing due to injuries that require her to stop running in order to fully heal. However, because she loves running so much,, she's unable to take a break from it. As a result, she doesn't have immediate plans to return to competition. She runs up to nine miles every day.

Renae has published several academic articles and one book. Her research often addresses the role of mothers in society and how they are portrayed in popular culture. She gives talks each year at academic conferences on this subject, including at the Southwest Popular and American Culture Association and the Jack Williamson Lectureship, among others. Her book *Maternity in the Post-Apocalypse* discusses how various science fiction works address the question of what would happen if maternal characters in the post-apocalyptic world resisted the re-imposing of patriarchal social structures.

Renae is passionate about the worlds of science fiction and fantasy. She plays Dungeons and Dragons every weekend. She attends the Renaissance Faire in costume every year. She also reads voraciously, and always has a science fiction or fantasy book recommendation.

Renae is active in the Unitarian Universalist Church, where she volunteers in the sound booth and occasionally gives talks. Involvement in the church allows her to volunteer on behalf of the community through special events, such as the UU Women's Retreat, Halloween "Trunk or Treats," and other fun events open to the community.

We are honored to have such a respected, cosmopolitan instructor teaching on our campus.



## MEET HEATHER BERKOVITZ



Please welcome Manager of Facility Operations Heather Berkovitz to our campus. Heather came to Los Alamos from Ann Arbor because her fiancé took a position at UbiQD. She has lived in many places, but the sunny beaches of Los Angeles remain among her fondest memories. Now that she lives here, she is eager to partake in the natural splendor of Northern New Mexico. She loves hiking, mountain biking, remote camping, and is learning to fish. She is also an aficionado of extremely hot peppers, so she should enjoy some of our local cuisine once she gets a chance to get out and sample more of it.

In her role, Heather is eager to “focus on some of the larger projects that Mike has planned. I am going to take a role as a project manager for building renovations, keyless entry systems, and similar projects that will improve campus appearance and accessibility.”

Heather earned her BA in Criminal Justice from Eastern Michigan University, and she is currently working on an MS in Environmental Science from the University of Idaho.

Heather plays violin and guitar, and she is learning the harmonica and the Dobro. She started in music by learning classical violin using the Suzuki Method, but her favorite styles are classic jazz and blues.

Heather enjoys spending time with her pets: two dogs and a cat. Moose is a St. Bernard/Great Pyrenees mix who is strong and protective. Frankie is a Great Dane/chow mix, and she tends to be sweet and approachable. Luna the tortoise-shell cat is noisy but loveable.



Heather loves to paint and draw, and she has had a gallery show of her artwork.

Heather is a living kidney donor, and she wants people to remind people that all types of organ donation are important and can save lives. She says, “I take every opportunity I have to educate people about the importance of giving the gift of life. It’s so important.”



## ADA STATEMENT

The University of New Mexico-Los Alamos is committed to the recognition and the proactive pursuit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The University makes reasonable accommodation for religious observances, national origin practices of a student and to the known physical or mental limitations of a qualified student, unless such accommodations have the end result of fundamentally altering a program or service or placing an undue hardship on the operation of the University. Qualified students with disabilities should contact Student Services for information regarding accommodations in the academic and/or employment setting. If you have a special need and require an auxiliary aide and/or service, please contact Student Services at (505) 662-5919.

## FALL 2025 CIC INTERNS



Congratulations to the following students for their participation in UNM-LA's Community Internship Collaboration. They will be interning this semester at the following locations:

Rheanna Esparza—Valles Caldera

Thao Nguyen & Harini Ramakrishnan — Hartway & Associates, CPA

Brandy Bonsall—Los Alamos Schools Credit Union

Rel Raven—LA Chamber of Commerce

Jess Holcombe—PEEC

Marianela Vega—Village Arts

Gwyn Lloyd—LARSO

Don't forget to support these local businesses! If you're interested in participating next semester, visit Brittany Carpenter, Internship Coordinator in the Student Services office. You can also email her at: [brcarpenter@unm.edu](mailto:brcarpenter@unm.edu).



## NEW BOOK AVAILABLE AT AMAZON AND BARNES AND NOBLE

UNM-LA advisor Jef Bateman reports that one of his former students, Geraldo Ivan Morales, co-authored a book with an immigrant detainee titled *Detained: A boy's journal of survival and resilience*. The book is an adaptation of a Honduran youth's letters and journals detailing his immigration from Central America and his detention in an immigration camp. It has a 4.8-star rating on Amazon, and it is available in English and Spanish.



LOS ALAMOS  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

# CAREER FAIR

Join us at the Career Fair! Hiring  
Businesses can register by going to the  
event on the calendar at the Los Alamos  
Chamber of Commerce at  
[losalamoschamber.com](http://losalamoschamber.com).

THURSDAY   
October 2, 2025

TIME   
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Fuller Lodge   
2132 Central Ave.  
Los Alamos, NM

**Sponsored by:**

**TECHSOURCE**  
A Skills & Engineering Company

**SISI**  
Strategic Management Solutions, LLC

**CENTURY BANK**

# *National Transfer Student Week*

*October 20-24 2025*



**SAVE THE DATE & REGISTER TODAY!**

## **Transfer & Branch Transition Exploration Day**

**At UNM-ABQ**

**Friday, October 24**

**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Thinking about earning your bachelor's at  
UNM-Albuquerque?**

**Join us for:**

- ✦ An overview of UNM-ABQ, admissions, advisement, financial aid & scholarships
- ✦ A Campus Connections Fair, Resource Center Tours, and Financial Aid Guidance session
- ✦ Free lunch for attendees
- ✦ Application fee waivers if you apply at the event

**Learn more and register here:**

**<https://goto.unm.edu/ntswtransferday>**



**Questions?**

**Contact us!**

**[unmtransfer@unm.edu](mailto:unmtransfer@unm.edu)**

**505-277-7000**

# STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services is a central hub of information for prospective, current, and former students to find assistance and answers to questions about admissions, financial aid, registration, academic advising, career services, and other resources on campus.



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## Admissions

The Office of Admissions can help if you have questions or are ready to apply to UNM-Los Alamos. The Office of Admissions can provide application instructions for degree-seeking, non-degree, dual credit/concurrent, international, senior, or transfer students. Complete details can be found on the Admissions page: [losalamos.unm.edu/admissions](https://losalamos.unm.edu/admissions).

## Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid provides information on financial resources available to degree-seeking students. These resources may include scholarships, grants, and loans from the federal or state government, independent organizations, and/or UNM-LA itself. UNM-LA determines financial aid eligibility from the FAFSA, so please take time to file this document online every year. Don't assume you are ineligible—there are many opportunities to pursue.

## Enrollment Services

The Office of Enrollment Services at UNM-LA processes high school and other college transcripts of current and former students. The registrar can also answer questions about dual credit and concurrent enrollment, VA benefits, and graduation requirements.

## Academic Advising & Student Success

Academic advisors can provide guidance through the admission process, degree and course selection, and registration. Advisors also assist with changing a major, following up instructors' early alerts, filing graduation petitions, and planning for baccalaureate work. Advisors can also help resolve registration errors. Degree-seeking students must meet with an advisor before registering for each semester to check that their chosen classes will continue to make progress toward their degrees and to have their advising hold lifted. The Student Success Manager coordinates ADA accommodation services for students, and oversees academic advisement, student retention, and success initiatives.

## Career Services

Student Services offers career services to assist students with self-exploration, selecting a major, and opportunities for gaining experience in their chosen fields. Career services also include resume reviews, internship connections, job fairs, quantifying or translating skills, sharing job postings, and building connections between employers and our students.