



Student Services Newsletter

JULY 2026

MEET CAT OZMENT: DIRECTOR OF THE ADULT LEARNING CENTER



Cat has been with UNM-Los Alamos for about five years, and she is currently the director of the UNM-Los Alamos Adult Learning Center. Her Ph.D. is from Indiana University, and she has years of experience in education, including 11 years teaching English at Indiana University and the University of Arkansas. More recently, she taught creative writing and ceramics

at the Fuller Lodge Art Center and ESL at UNM-Los Alamos. Cat oversees the operations and funding of her department.

The Adult Learning Center offers classes in English as a Second Language, programs for high-school equivalency, and courses in employability skills, such as résumé preparation and interviewing. Please contact her if you are interested in any of these programs.

Cat particularly likes that the center provides social support for people who are learning English. "Imagine you're in a place where everything is different and people are speaking a language you don't understand. It takes courage to enter a situation like that, and you need support and a place to connect. It is very different than visiting a place, you are making a new life."

Cat is currently overseeing an expansion of the Adult Learning Center. They are redesigning the space and updating materials. Cat says, "My vision is to create a space that students can use to study and to connect." If you've seen the center recently, you've noticed there are boxes here and there and the place is obviously in transition. We are excited to see what it will become!

You can email her at cozment@unm.edu.



IMPORTANT DATES

July 10: Last day to drop via LoboWeb

July 23: Last day to drop with permission. See an advisor

July 28: Summer session ends

August 17: Fall semester begins

August 28: Late registration closes

September 4: Last day to drop without a "W" grade and 100% tuition refund

September 7: Labor Day (Campus closed)



DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH PROFILE: JEN DEMAS



July is Disability Pride Month, and we decided to talk with Jen Demas of the Family Strengths Network (FSN) about her work and some of the resources that are available at FSN.

Jen has worked at Family Strengths Network for two years, and she is currently the

executive director. She was drawn to work with children because of her experiences growing up with dyslexia and ADHD. "I was in special education the whole time. I saw the importance of feeling like you belonged."

After moving to Los Alamos, Jen tried a variety of jobs, but she only felt truly at home when she found Family Strengths Network. "You know how it is," Jen says, "when you find your place, you just know."

Family Strengths Network began in 1989 with the purpose of preventing child abuse. Since then, they have expanded to provide education and a place for families to connect. Jen explains, "People thrive in community. We provide a place where children with a variety of abilities can play together. Often, when a child presents differently, people will avoid them. We want kids to know that it is OK to say 'hi' even when they can't say 'hi' back. Everyone wants to feel welcome and acknowledged."

Family Strengths Network has a variety of activities that appeal to families with children with learning differences. Their toy-lending library has numerous items recommended for occupational therapy and physical therapy, including toys designed to develop fine-motor and gross-motor skills. If a parent knows of a special toy that can help with their specific needs, FSN has money to order them. Please contact a staff member with your request. They also have a speaker series on topics related to parenting and child development. A recent series focused on special needs. If there is a topic you want to learn more about, Jen is open to recommendations for future speakers.

Jen encourages UNM-Los Alamos students to get involved by volunteering at FSN. Their facility is located near our campus at 3540 Orange Street. You can connect with them through their website (www.lafsn.org), by emailing Jen at jen@lafsn.org, or by calling (505)662-4515.



STUDENT SERVICES IS CURRENTLY IN BUILDING 2

Students often view the Student Services offices in Building 1 as their "home base." You should note, therefore, that Student Services is relocating to the basement of Building 2, downstairs from the Hideout Café for the duration of some major renovations that are being done on campus.

This is not a permanent location, but it is likely to remain our home for a couple of years. Financial Services will be upstairs in Building 2.

If you are visiting Student Services this summer, please park in the east parking lot. You can use the spots that are labelled for UNM-Los Alamos staff and faculty, just remember to leave the handicap spots for people with proper credentials. Parking arrangements will change once the fall semester begins.

When the fall semester begins, please plan extra time to get to your classroom as construction will be ongoing throughout the school year.



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.



Danielle Gonzales
Director, Student Affairs
505-661-4688
danigonzales@unm.edu



Coco Rae
Student Success Manager
505-661-4692
cocorae@unm.edu



Jenny Duran
Financial Aid Officer
505-662-0341
jenduran@unm.edu



Jef Bateman
Sr. Student Success
Specialist
505-553-3406
jbateman1@unm.edu



Grace Willerton
Sr. Student Success
Specialist
505-663-3402
gwillert@unm.edu



Brittany Carpenter
Community Internship
Collaboration (CIC)
Coordinator
505-661-4682
brcarpenter@unm.edu



Lori Tepley
Branch Registrar
505-662-0332
ltepley@unm.edu



Ingrid Goldsmith
Sr. Student Enrollment
Associate
505-661-4698
lgoldsmith@unm.edu



Gregory Scargall
Branch Recruitment
Specialist
505-661-4690
gscargall@unm.edu

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.

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 Director of Student Affairs 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.