



# LOS ALAMOS

## Student Services Newsletter

January 2025

### WELCOME TO CRYSTAL GONZALES



Student Services would like to welcome Crystal Gonzales to UNM-LA. She is serving as our director of business operations, where she oversees finance, IT, HR, and facilities. She has been on the job for a month and a half, but has worked for UNM for 18 years, mostly in finance. Crystal has deep New Mexico roots. Her father's family has been in New Mexico for approximately 300 years!

Crystal was born in Albuquerque, and she says, "I feel like I grew up at UNM. My mother retired from there, and my aunt still works there."

She was drawn to Los Alamos because her brother lived in Nambé Pueblo. She intended to stay with him and work on the Hill, but he has since moved in with her in Albuquerque. So now she commutes three times a week and works from home two days.

Crystal is currently finishing her MBA. Eventually, she intends to retire from The University of New Mexico, then finish a second master's and a Ph.D. in counselling. This will set her up to have a second career in counselling.

Meanwhile, she is looking for ways to incorporate strategies that she learns as part of her MBA program into her job here at UNM-LA. She wants to simplify processes and help staff with their personal development.

Her goals for the campus at large are "to help create a campus where students and the community are excited to visit, where lifelong learning is celebrated, and where staff are proud to say that they work.

Crystal has four children – all boys! Her favorite hobby is running, and you can find her on the trails in the foothills of Albuquerque.

Crystal is working hard to make this campus work, so take a minute to thank her when you see her around.

### WRITING CLUB

Are you interested in meeting others who have a passion for writing? Do you want to receive constructive feedback on your work?

Starting in fall of 2024, a small group of UNM-Los Alamos students and others have been meeting to share our writing. We have read memoirs, short stories, and songs. We are open to any type of writing, including comics, poems, and memes.

We meet most Thursdays at 1 pm in room B20, in the lower level of Building 7.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY



We celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 20. This year, we would like to honor another civil rights pioneer, George Long. Long was born in Alabama and lived most of his life in Oakland, but his activities in New Mexico led to legislation that improved the condition of racial minorities in this state and provided an example for other states.

Long first became interested in New Mexico when he was a soldier in Okinawa during the second world war. Long met legendary war journalist Ernie Pyle, who had fallen in love with New Mexico and bought a house there in 1940. While Pyle did not survive the war, but the picture that he painted of the high desert in Long's mind did. He enrolled in UNM in 1946, hoping to become a teacher.

A humiliating experience led to a change in his plans. Long was a member of the UNM Glee Club, which decided to meet at a barbeque restaurant near campus called Oklahoma Joe's, located where the Quick Track convenience store is now. The restaurant refused to serve Long because of his race.

A *Daily Lobo* reporter who was present wrote about the event, and the story created enough attention that there was a university-wide referendum to boycott the restaurant. This forced Oklahoma Joe's to change its policies. Their next boycott target was a nearby Walgreens, which was also compelled to change its discriminatory practices.

Inspired by their ability to change policies, students and faculty at UNM established a chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). They elected Herbert Wright as president.

The actions at UNM caught the attention of forward-thinking members of the Albuquerque city council, and they asked Wright and Long to write an anti-discrimination ordinance to assure access to public accommodations regardless of race or religion. This ordinance was passed in 1952, well before similar laws, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, were passed nationally.

Long enrolled in The University of New Mexico School of Law in 1952, five years after it was founded. He was a pioneer, become the law school's first African American graduate. He went on to have a long career in real estate law. He died in Oakland in 2010.

We thank courageous heroes like George Long who worked to improve conditions for minorities in New Mexico.

**MARTIN LUTHER  
KING JR. DAY**  
I HAVE A DREAM

### IMPORTANT DATES

**January 20:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, campus closed

**January 21:** Spring classes begin

**January 31:** Last day to add sections and change credit hours on LoboWEB.

**February 7:** Last day to drop with a "W" grade and receive 100% tuition refund on LoboWEB

**March 16 - 23:** Spring break. No classes, but the campus is open.

**March 24:** Start of second-half-semester classes

**April 18:** Last day to drop without dean's permission on LoboWEB

**May 8:** Last day to drop with Dean's permission

**May 12 - 17:** Final exams

**May 15:** Commencement!

## MAKAR SANKRATI



Makar Sankranti, observed on January 14 this year, is a Hindu solar festival. It is always dedicated to Surya, the God of the Sun, but is celebrated differently in the various states of India.

In some places, children go door-to-door to ask for candy and pastries. In the state of Gujarat, Makar Sankranti is called “Uttarayana” and is celebrated by flying kites. The most widespread activity is bathing in sacred rivers. There are spots on the river Ganga that see hundreds of thousands of pilgrims vie for a chance to take a dip in the holy water.

However the holiday is celebrated, it is a time to for families to come together and to be thankful for the mid-winter harvest.



## LOST AND FOUND



Have you lost some item on campus and don't know where to find it? Many found items are turned in to Student Services. Come by Building 1 with a description, and we may be able to reunite you with your lost possessions!

We do not have a lost-and-found bin to look through, so be ready to describe your missing things to us.



### 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.

### Follow Us



# 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 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.