



Healthcare Programs

A Presentation to the Legislative Health and Human Services Interim Committee

July 21, 2025





Facundo Valdez School of Social Work and Our Special Projects



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Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

- On behalf of the Facundo Valdez School of Social Work, we would like to welcome you into this space by honoring the Indigenous Peoples of the 23 Tribes and Pueblos as traditional stewards of these unceded ancestral lands upon which our work occurs.
- We believe in the power of collaboration and actively seek partnerships with Indigenous communities, organizations, and allies to co-create solutions that respect and honor Indigenous sovereignty, traditions and knowledge.

Facundo Valdez School of Social Work (FVSSW)

Anna Nelson, PhD, LCSW, Dean

A Snapshot of the FVSSW

- Accredited since 1974, we are the oldest School of Social Work in New Mexico
- Our mission is to educate students to practice social work competently with the diverse, multicultural populations of New Mexico and the Southwest with an emphasis on serving Hispanic/Latino and Native American Students and students from rural communities
- Faculty research areas include substance use prevention, child wellbeing, and behavioral health impacts of climate change in New Mexico
- 522 students are enrolled (120 Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) site-based, 164 Master of Social Work (MSW) site-based, and 238 MSW online)
 - 92% of our MSW students are New Mexico Residents (New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee, 2024, p. 3)
- Planning to launch BSW online program in Fall, 2026 and the State's first Doctor of Social Work Practice (DSW) in Fall, 2027

The Ethos of the FVSSW



Our deeply held commitments:

- Funding Our Mission: 5 Sites across Central and Northern New Mexico
- Growing Our Own Social Work Workforce: 92% of our MSW students are New Mexico Residents (New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee, 2024, p. 3)
- Providing Meaningful Student Engagement and Enhanced Advisement
- Meeting Workforce Needs through Our 3 MSW Concentrations:
 - Bilingual/Bicultural
 - Leadership and Administration
 - Clinical

Our Special Projects

Rachell Tenorio, PhD, Interim Director, Native American Social Work Studies Institute

Valerie Valles Pedroza, Interim Director, Center for Excellence in Social Work, Principal Investigator for Social Work Educational Enhancement Project-Raíces



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- The Native American Social Work Studies Institute (NASW-SI) was established to address the gap in social work education and practice related to tribal communities.
- NASW-SI aims to educate and train social workers to provide services for tribal nations and indigenous communities by promoting resiliency, cultural knowledge, wisdom and healing.
- Founded with the support of tribal leaders and the state legislature, NASW-SI is the first program of its kind in the country, created to develop social work practices that are responsive to the unique needs of tribal populations.
- NASW-SI's work is supported by tribal resolutions from the Pueblo Council of Governors and the Navajo Nation.

Outcomes and Next Steps



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- FY25 Outcomes

- Developed Introduction to Social Work Practice with Tribal Communities course outline
- Four trainings focused on Native American child wellbeing, reaching 71 participants and providing 270 Cultural CEUs

- FY26 Next Steps

- Establish new Tribally-serving practicum sites
- Develop a course map for a Native American MSW Concentration
- Provide training to social workers and community stakeholders in social work practice with Native American people and communities

Social Work Educational Enhancement Project-Raíces

Social Work Educational Enhancement Project-Raíces

Funded by the US Department of Education's Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions Program

Raíces's primary goal is to build the social work workforce by "growing our own" to serve the communities of New Mexico. The program works to support the enrollment, retention, and graduation of all FVSSW students, with a focus on Hispanic/Latino and under-resourced communities by building meaningful relationships with students, faculty, staff and community.

Key Accomplishments in FY25:

- Community outreach and education: through a culturally grounded/ relevant Social Work Plática/career talk model we have reached over 1100 prospective students.
- Retention: through the development of a multidimensional advisement model and Social Work Student Success Series we have served over 500 students supporting retention and graduation.
- Satisfaction of Constituencies: Have increased structural supports and resources for FVSSW faculty and staff.
- Raíces Kip Coggins Memorial Scholarship: In addition to the generous contributions by the NM State legislature, we have fundraised and leveraged "matching funds" through the grant with a total endowment of nearly \$538,065 of which \$23,742 is currently available to disperse to students.

Raíces-Growing Our Own: 2025 Behavioral Health Summer Bridge Program

July 8–11, 2025 | NMHU Albuquerque & Las Vegas Sites-Co sponsored with Future Focused Education

- Focused on career exploration, college readiness, and community advocacy
- Engaged 20 high school students from 7 Albuquerque-area schools, over 4 days
- **81 percent** of students reported increased clarity on post-high school goals

Participant Voice:

"It's shown me specifically what I can do to serve as a point of health and healing in a community that's severely lacking in behavioral healthcare professionals".

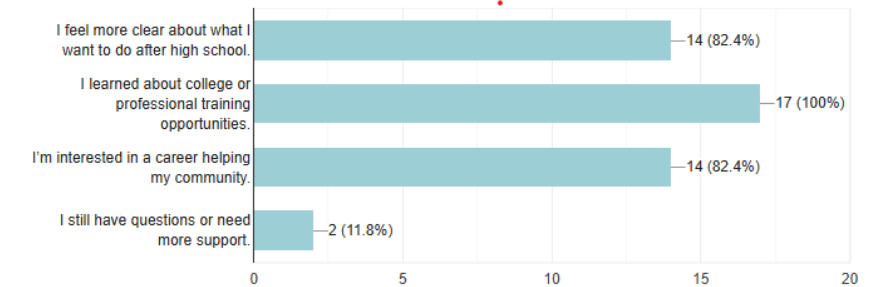
"I think this has been the most organized and insightful program I have ever done. The way the staff cared by introducing us to people in behavioral health and growing our passion in it was so genuine".

View KRQE News Coverage: <https://www.krqe.com/news/new-mexico/northern-new-mexico-university-looks-to-get-youth-interested-in-social-work/>

How has Summer Bridge impacted your thinking about your future education or career path? (Check all that apply)

 Copy chart

17 responses





**CENTER FOR
EXCELLENCE**
IN SOCIAL WORK

Center for Excellence in Social Work



**CENTER FOR
EXCELLENCE**
IN SOCIAL WORK



Center Story, Mission, Vision and Core Priorities

Established in 2022



Established by Governor Lujan Grisham to provide high-quality research and professional development for the social work workforce sector

Mission and Vision



Mission: Growing the workforce while driving innovation in social work education, practice, policy and research

Vision: A robust, resourced, and culturally-responsive workforce mobilized to respond to the needs of New Mexico

Core Priorities



Using the evidenced Spectrum of Prevention Model, we prioritize:

- Child and Adolescent Wellbeing
- Interdisciplinary Social Work and Public Safety
- Public Health Social Work
- Environmental Disasters and Justice



The Center-Impact Across NM

2nd Annual Social Work Education Summit

First of its kind in the state to bring social work educators and practitioners together to improve the quality of social work education.

- 85 attendees from communities across NM, all Schools of Social Work were represented.
- 306 CEU's distributed



CYFD INSPIRE

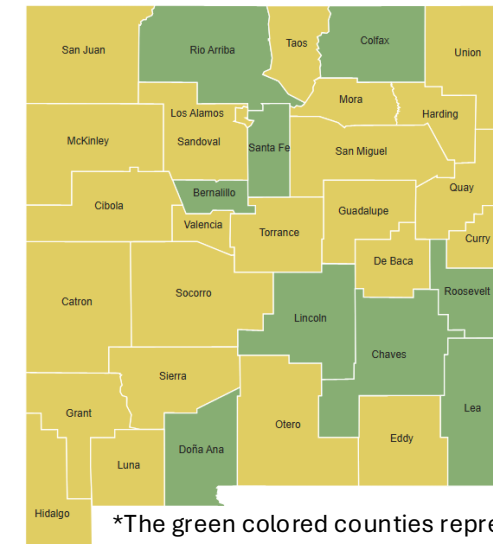
Augment CYFD's Core Training for protective service workers with interdisciplinary professional preparation with culturally relevant, intermediate social work skills training to create and deliver culturally grounded, trauma informed services.

- 5 cohorts, 134 enrolled, 45 certificates awarded, total of 720 continuing education hours

Participant Voice:

"I have learned different skills in this course, I would find it vital that everyone at some point take this course to brush up on new skills and older ones that we need to have updated information on."

"I learned that I have a lot of learning to do! I am interested in pursuing a degree in social work, I was not sure before, but since taking this training, I got a bit of insight helped me to choose to move forward."



*The green colored counties represent the geographical location of INSPIRE participants that successfully completed the training

The Center-Impact Across NM

Student Advocacy and Action Day (SANA)

64 participants, including 51 students, from across NM

Student Voice:

“Attending Student Advocacy and Action Day will provide me with the opportunity to deepen my understanding of the New Mexico legislative session, policy development, and the advocacy strategies needed to drive meaningful change. By observing legislative discussions and learning how laws are shaped, I can better equip myself to act on behalf of my clients and contribute to broader community-based solutions.”

In FY 25 total of 1270 participants,
2904 Continuing Education Credits
distributed, 1289 of which were
Cultural

Professional Development & Continuing Education (CE) Credit Provider

- The Center is committed to providing accessible and affordable ongoing learning opportunities for students, faculty, community and practicing social workers.
 - In FY25, the Center hosted 18 trainings for service providers across NM, totaling 1015 participants, distributing 1925 CE credits, of which 742 were Cultural.
- As a social work CE credit provider it strengthens the Center's role as an intermediary and supports practitioners in gaining CE credit for licensure.
 - 13 trainings in which the Center was a CE credit provider, distributing 979 CE credits, of which 547 were Cultural.

The Center Plaza

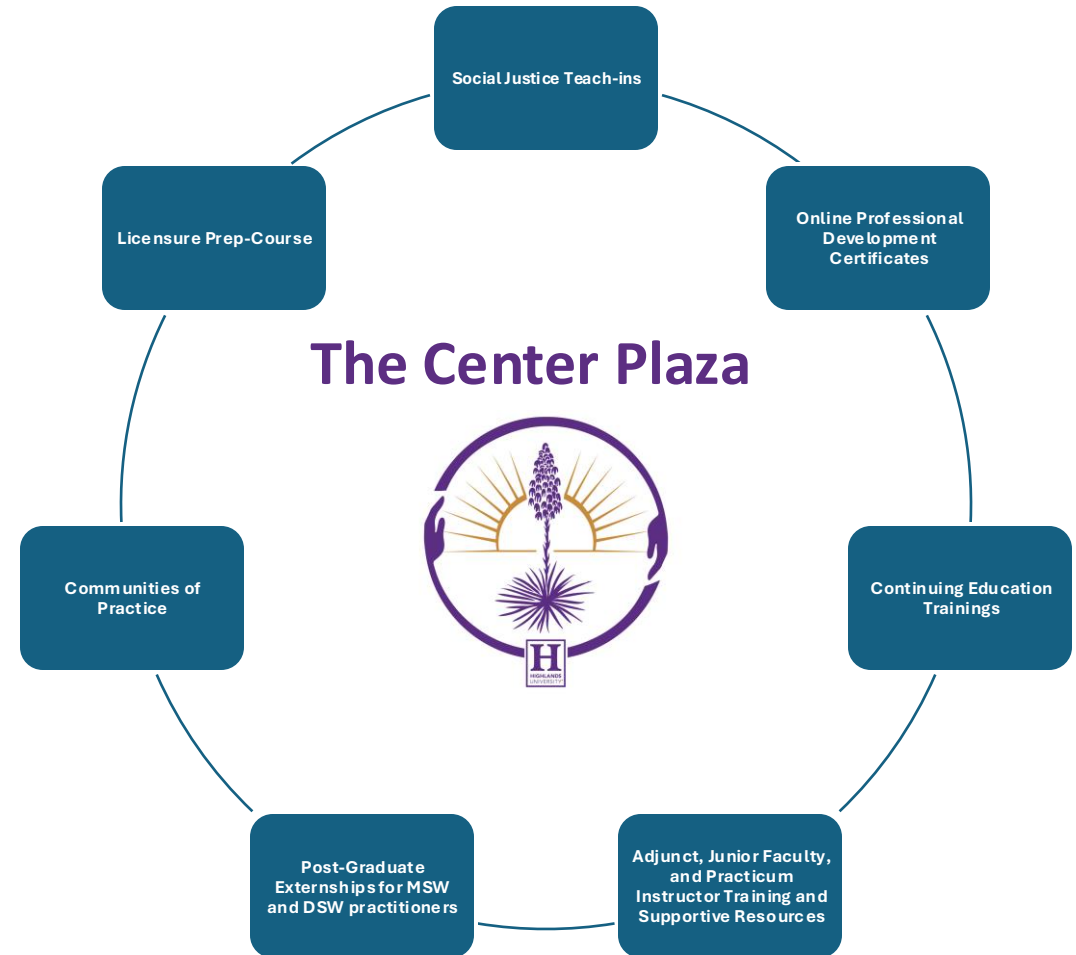
A Community of Learning and Professional Development

The Center Plaza is a thriving community hub where New Mexico's social work students, educators, practitioners, and interdisciplinary partners come together to foster dialogue, inspire learning, and champion professional growth (see handout).

Early Outcomes

- Licensure prep course launched in May **2025**. Currently 259 enrolled, 24 completed.
 - Average practice test score: 90%
- Social Justice Teach-ins
 - Total of 6 teach-ins in FY25, average of 93 participants per teach-in
 - 577 participants, 604 cultural CEU's distributed
 - 96% of participants learned one or more skills they can apply to their practice

"The community is speaking and our professionals are taking notice. I feel very 'seen' right now. This was just so deeply human and respectful."



Research Charge: Generate High Quality, Impactful Research for the Social Work Workforce Sector

- **Policy and practice briefs**

- FY 25: surpassed target of 4 by completing 6 briefs (see handout)
- FY 26: will generate 2 practice briefs and 2 policy briefs

- **Statewide Research**

- FY 25: 2025 Social Work Students of NM Survey
 - In progress: target for completion-fall 2025
- FY 26: 2026 Social Workers of NM Survey
 - Target for completion: Spring 2026

Thank you and Questions

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