## Successful Transfer Student Experiences: Navigating Institution Processes

**Presenters:** Yolanda Pacheco (SIPI), Michael Ray (NMSU), Mario Vega (UNM)

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<tr>
<td>Yolanda Pacheco</td>
<td>SIPI</td>
<td>has 14 years of experience working in higher education, most of which was earned while working as a professional academic advisor for Central New Mexico Community College (CNM). Currently, Yolanda works in Enrollment Management with a focus on recruitment, retention and graduation for Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI). Yolanda earned her Bachelors of Biblical Studies at Nazarene Bible College in 1998. She earned her Master of Arts in Business Management at Webster University in 2001. She has also completed certifications and trainings in Mediation, Global Career Development Facilitator and Financial and College Coaching. Yolanda is a member of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA).</td>
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<td>Michael Ray</td>
<td>NMSU</td>
<td>is of Laguna Pueblo and Red Lake Chipewa Heritage. Living on the Laguna Indian Reservation for most of his childhood he attended all of the educational programs that the reservation offered, from Paraje Head Start, Laguna Elementary and Middle Schools to Laguna - Acoma High School. Michael attended various higher education institutions that include New Mexico State University – Grants, DeVry Institute of Technology – Phoenix, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, University of Pennsylvania, and New Mexico State University. Currently, Mr. Ray is the Director of the American Indian Program at New Mexico State University. At NMSU, he has been able to help students find their path in higher education be it in the undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral levels, and is also helping students find that “next step” be it academic or starting out their working career.</td>
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<td>Mario Vega</td>
<td>UNM</td>
<td>for the Office of Admissions as a Student Recruitment Specialist for the University of New Mexico. He received his Master’s degree in History (Education Track) in 2010 from Southwestern Assemblies of God University. He has over 10 years of experience in the field of Education working in the classroom as a teacher, instructor, and now helping student achieve their dreams through the Office of Admissions. He works with Northern NM Community Colleges, CNM transfer students, and local High Schools in Albuquerque and surrounding areas. He is available to meet with students that are interested in transferring to UNM, or have any questions about the process. He can be contacted via email at <a href="mailto:mvega@unm.edu">mvega@unm.edu</a> or by phone (505) 277.3414.</td>
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## Veterans Student Support and Leadership Opportunities

**Presenter:** Nick Brokeshoulder (UNM – Gallup)

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<td>Nick Brokeshoulder</td>
<td>UNM – Gallup</td>
<td>was born in Staff (AZ) in 1961. After High School, he attended Haskell Indian Junior College &amp; UNNA-ABQ. He enlisted into the US Army in October 1981. Leadership positions: Senior Radar Operator, Section Chief, Recruiter, Station Commander Duty Assignments: Fort Lewis, WA; Ft Richardson AK; AK-Ft Sill, OK-Korea-Ft Sill, OK; Recruiting Duty at Oceanside, CA &amp; Gallup, NM. Military education: Firefighter Radar Training, Instructor Training, Army Recruiter &amp; Station CDR’s Course; all Leadership courses such as: PLDC, BNOCDC &amp; ARSOC. Military awards: MSM, ARCOM (4 LOC), AAM (5 LOC), GCM, NSDM, NCOPD, Army Service &amp; Overseas Service Ribbon, Air Assault-Expert Rifle Marksmanship &amp; Gold Recruiter Badge, Gold Recruiter Ring, and John E. Morrell Medalion Award. Cellar Education: HS Diploma, AA Degree-Applied Science, BA Degree-Education, &amp; MA Degree-Educational Leadership.</td>
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## The Warrior Spirit in Leadership

**Presenter:** DJ Eaglebear Varas

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<td>DJ Eaglebear Varas</td>
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<td>is a celebrated speaker, author, former military officer and a member of the Oglala Tribe. He shows organizations how to apply warrior spirit principles to succeed. These organizations include Walt Disney, NASA and almost 500 tribal nations. He’s also been invited to the White House to speak – twice. DJ is the author of the popular book The Tiny Warrior, now printed in six countries.</td>
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## Keynote Address & Dinner – Friday, October 30th (5:30 – 7:30 pm)

**Leadership as an American Indian Female in STEM**

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<td>Karen McDaniel</td>
<td>Sandia National Laboratories</td>
<td>is a member of the Navajo tribe from Upper Fruita, NM. Karen is of the Black Streak Forest People born for the Zuni Clan. Her maternal grandfather is from the Cayote Pass Clan and her paternal grandfather is from the Badlands Clan. Karen currently resides in Cedar Crest, NM with her family. Karen’s professional career includes being a Principal Member of Technical Staff and a Product Realization Team Lead in the Explosive Technologies department at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM. She works as a team lead in the development, production, and delivery of explosives components in support of our National Security. Karen’s educational accomplishments include an Associate’s degree in General Science from San Juan Community College, a Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from the University of New Mexico in Mechanical Engineering. Karen has also been awarded the American Indian Science and Engineering Society’s Technical Excellence in 2010.</td>
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Taking the Next Step, the Graduate School Path

Presenter: Carmen Lopez (College Horizons)

Carmen Lopez, College Horizons

Carmen, a citizen of the Navajo Nation, is the Executive Director of College Horizons (CH) Inc., a national educational non-profit. College Horizons supports the higher education of Native American students by providing pre-college (College Horizons) and pre-graduate (Graduate Horizons) summer programs open to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian high school and college students from across the nation. Prior to CH, Carmen served for five years as the Executive Director of the Harvard University Native American Program (HUNAP) and also served as a member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Committee on Ethnic Studies, The Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, Admissions Reader for the Harvard Kennedy School’s Master in Public Policy program, and a Reader and Site Visitor for the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Developments’ Honoring Nations Program. In her early educational career, Carmen served on the faculty of Cushing Academy located in Ashburnham, MA and the Native American Preparatory School located in Rowe, NM. Carmen received her B.A. in History modified with Native American Studies from Dartmouth College and her Ed.M. from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

Achieving LGBTQ Student Success through Safety, Advocacy, Education, and Support

Presenters: Alma Rosa Silva-Bañuelos (UNM), Renae Swope (UNM – Gallup), Dr. Paul Sedillo (NMHU; HU CARES)

Dr. Paul James (PJ) Sedillo is a native from Albuquerque, received his BA degree in Elementary Education from New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU), Las Vegas NM, Masters in Special Education from the University of New Mexico (UNM), and his Doctorate in Special Education with an emphasis on the Gifted and Talented. He taught within the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) for 24 years in General and Special Education and as a Gifted Resource Teacher. He is currently an Assistant Professor at NMHU Rio Rancho Center where he teaches Gifted and Special Education. As an "out" positive role model, Dr. Sedillo, has been an advocate for many issues pertaining to human rights since 1989. In 1990, he obtained job security for all APS employees with a non-discriminatory policy with sexual orientation written into all employee contracts. In 2003, he was legally married in Canada to Tony Ross (spouse). Together they became the first same-sex couple to receive spousal benefits from a public school system in the United States. Currently, Dr. Sedillo facilitates and offers GLBTQ Safe Zone training to all NMHU administration, staff, professors, and faculty. Once trained and qualified they are able to offer their workspace as a “safe haven” for the entire NMHU community.

Alma Rosa Silva-Bañuelos, UNM

Alma Rosa Silva-Bañuelos is the Director of the LGBTQ Resource Center at the University of New Mexico. In this role, Alma Rosa is committed to creating a space that provides service to UNM students, faculty and staff of all gender identities and sexual orientations through support, advocacy, education and safety. She has also been a community organizer in her hometown of Albuquerque, NM since the late 1990’s, and has worked throughout New Mexico facilitating local and rural communities to self-organize for social justice.

Renae Swope, UNM – Gallup

Renae Swope currently resides in Albuquerque, NM, and is originally from Iyamito, a small community west of Gallup. She graduated from the University of New Mexico in December 2014 with a Bachelor’s of Liberal Arts and Integrative Studies. Her studies at UNM revolved around Community Health Education and Sociology, providing her the opportunity to enhance her skills in health education strategies, community outreach and advocacy. Renae states that her journey has been interested as well as blessed. Identifying as a Navajo Trans Woman, she has lived and experienced a life that entailed pervasive discrimination, incarcereion, homelessness, addictions, near death experiences, and survival work. This has given her the drive to work for a better tomorrow for all Trans* People. Renae currently serves as the Trans Inclusion Specialist with the Native American Center at San Juan College, in Farmington, New Mexico. Ms. Peterson completed her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Arizona State University and is currently continuing her education at University of New Mexico.

Establishing Personal Balance

Presenters: Dr. Lisa Grayshield (NMSU), Michele Peterson (SJC)

Dr. Lisa Grayshield, a member of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, is an Associate Professor of Counseling and Educational Psychology at New Mexico State University (NMSU). Dr. Grayshield is an avid proponent of Indigenous Ways of Knowing (IWOK); the incorporation of ancient and traditional forms of knowledge into academic endeavors. Her scholarship record includes years of experience researching, teaching, presenting, and mentoring Native and other Indigenous individuals in their plight to maintain the integrity of their own earth-based belief systems and tribal traditions [ways of knowing] in their academic pursuits. Dr. Grayshield teaches self-healing in promotion of peace, balance, and harmony for all beings on the planet for generations to come. Her presentations are always a journey of self-healing and actualization into one’s highest level of conscious awareness.

Michele Peterson, SJC

Michele Peterson, Navajo and Oglala Lakota, is the Director of the Native American Center at San Juan College, in Farmington, New Mexico. Ms. Peterson completed her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Arizona State University and is currently continuing her education at University of New Mexico.

2015 NM LEADS Featured Speakers

Workshop Session II – Saturday, October 31st (9:00 – 10:00 am)
2015 NM LEADS Featured Speakers

Workshop Session II – Saturday, October 31st (10:00 am – 11:00 am)

Impact Your Campus and Community; Creating Leadership Legacies

Presenters: Josiah Benally (CNM, AISES), Megan Byers (Native American Club; NMII), Demetrius Johnson (KIVA Club; UNM)

Josiah J. Benally, Diné, is a Sophomore at Central New Mexico Community College. He is majoring in Engineering with a concentration in Nuclear Engineering upon his four year transfer to the University of New Mexico. His main focus is finding an alternative power source for the Navajo Nation power plants. He wants to remove the use of coal and mines through modern technology that is eco-friendly to better serve the Navajo Nation and its communities. Josiah’s continuous involvement with the American Indian Science & Engineering Society and STEM opportunities will provide for his research and internship goals.

Megan Byers, NMII

Megan Byers is 19 years old and from the Mescalero Apache Reservation. Both of her parents were Blackhawk and Huey helicopter crew chiefs in the Army. Her dad is from New England and her mom is full blood Apache. She has learned many things about life from her parents; they are her back bone as well as her driving force. She has been attending NMII for 6 years. She returned for junior college to earn an AA in Criminal Justice. She would like to attend UNM after NMII to study Criminology then transfer to Wyoming and study Public Administration. She plans to use her education to become a BIA police officer and eventually a special investigator. Her hope is to use her education to change her life as well as many others from Mescalero Apache Reservation.

Demetrius Johnson (Dine) is a major in Electrical Engineering. He is a football coach, served as KIVA Club Treasurer this past year, and currently serves as KIVA Club President at UNM. His future career goal is to lead programs that give native families electricity via solar panels. His grandmother is the reason for this undertaking – she lived her entire life without the comfort of electricity. There are grandmothers and grandfathers on reservations that are still getting their light by a kerosene lamp. This inspired him to chose a career in Electrical Engineering. His personal goals are to move back to To’lani, raise a family with a bunch of kids, be a football coach for a high school team, and also open his own pie shop.

Personalizing Your Personal Statement: Creating An Intellectual Autobiography

Presenters: Catherine Montoya (UNM), Andrew Yazzie (UNM)

Catherine Montoya (Dine) from Window Rock, Arizona is the Student Programs Specialist for American Indian Student Services at the University of New Mexico and serves as one of the primary advisors who often helps students navigate their way through their higher education experience. Catherine holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Native American Studies from Dartmouth and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of New Mexico and has worked in higher education for 11 years.

Andrew Yazzie (Dine) from Shiprock, New Mexico is the Student Recruitment Specialist for American Indian Student Services at the University of New Mexico and focuses primarily on targeted American Indian recruitment and outreach initiatives. Andrew holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family Studies from the University of New Mexico and has worked in higher education for 5 years.

Taking the Next Step, the Graduate School Path

Presenter: Carmen Lopez (College Horizons)

Carmen, a citizen of the Navajo Nation, is the Executive Director of College Horizons (CH) Inc., a national educational non-profit. College Horizons supports the higher education of Native American students by providing pre-college (College Horizons) and pre-graduate (Graduate Horizons) summer programs open to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian high school and college students from across the nation. Prior to CH, Carmen served for five years as the Executive Director of the Harvard University Native American Program (HUNAP) and also served as a member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Committee on Ethnic Studies, The Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, Admissions Reader for the Harvard Kennedy Schools’ Master in Public Policy program, and a Reader and Site Visitor for the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Developments’ Honoring Nations Program. In her early educational career, Carmen served on the faculty of Cushing Academy located in Ashburnham, MA and the Native American Preparatory School located in Rowe, NM. Carmen received her B.A. in History modified with Native American Studies from Dartmouth College and her Ed.M. from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.
2015 NM LEADS Featured Speakers

Cultural Perspective – Saturday, October 31st (11:00 – 12:15 pm)

Regis Pecos, Former Governor: Cochiti Pueblo

Regis Pecos is from Cochiti Pueblo, New Mexico. He received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy at Princeton University, where he recently finished a term as Trustee for the University. He is completing his doctorate degree at the University of California at Berkeley. He served as both Lt. Governor and Governor and is a lifetime member of the Tribal Council at Cochiti Pueblo. Regis served for 16 years as Executive Director of the New Mexico Office of Indian Affairs under four administrations. He is now Chief of Staff to the New Mexico Speaker of the House and co-founded the New Mexico Leadership Institute.

Keynote Address & Luncheon – Saturday, October 31st (12:30 – 2:00 pm)

Shaping Your Future – Influenced By Tradition

The Honorable Diane J. Humetewa was confirmed by the United States Senate on May 14, 2014 as a United States District Judge for the United States District Court in the District of Arizona. Currently she is the District Judge Liaison to the district's pro se staff attorneys, a member of the district's Reentry & Rehabilitation Working Group, and a member of the United States Sentencing Commission's Tribal Issues Ad Hoc Advisory Group.

Prior to her confirmation, she served as Special Advisor to the President and Special Counsel in the Office of General Counsel at Arizona State University (ASU) and as a Professor of Practice at ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Judge Humetewa is formerly Of Counsel with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP in Phoenix, Arizona.

Before her service with ASU, Judge Humetewa served the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) in the District of Arizona as Senior Litigation Counsel and ultimately as the United States Attorney for the district. During her tenure with the USAO, she served as Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General and Deputy Counsel for the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

Judge Humetewa received her J.D. from Arizona State University College of Law and her B.S. from Arizona State University. She is a member of the Hopi Tribe and has served as an Appellate Court Judge for the Hopi Tribe Appellate Court.