

From The President

Celebrating Perseverance



ENMU-Ruidoso is putting the bow on a most unusual year with its first in-person commencement ceremony since 2019.

On May 13, graduates will gather to celebrate their academic achievements with family beneath the shadow of Sierra Blanca on the grounds of Inn of the Mountain Gods. It is a celebration of perseverance because these graduates have succeeded in their studies against overwhelming odds—odds created by a once-in-a-generation pandemic.

Who knew that—in mid-semester last spring—their college classes on campus would stop suddenly and these graduates would be forced to learn new skills and complete their studies via online classes?

Who knew that these graduates would quickly find themselves juggling family needs, reduced work hours or the loss of a job, leaving them struggling with a variety of priorities while having to stay focused on class assignments and grades?

They didn't know. ENMU-Ruidoso didn't know.

But not only did these graduates complete that spring 2020 semester, they came back for more in the fall, then again in the spring of 2021. When it was easier to “stop out,” they stayed the course, viewing a future in

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With Nexus Project Phase 2 Complete, It's On To Phase 3



Construction is completed and ENMU-Ruidoso is moving offices and equipment into its newly renovated space at 709 Mechem Dr., the college's original facility.

Tentative plans call for the facility to be open to the public this summer and to students for in-person and hybrid classes this fall.

The project, dubbed Nexus Phase 2, was approved by voters through a \$3 million general obligation bond in November 2019, and creates spaces for new workforce programs, the popular Success Emporium, high tech classrooms, and study spaces.

Specifically, the renovation provides classrooms and labs for a new Wind Energy and Fermentation Science program, a Registered Nursing program in partnership with ENMU-Roswell, the Emporium's “one-stop shop,” which integrates student and employment services and includes a New Mexico Workforce Connection office, computer and learning labs, a food court, and study spaces for students.

The final step in construction included breaking through an existing wall to connect the facility's 37,000 square feet with the college's

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College Plans “In Person” Spring 2021 Commencement

With health conditions from the COVID-19 outbreak now improving, ENMU-Ruidoso is planning an outdoor, in-person commencement for its 2021 graduates.

Commencement will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 13, on the

lawn of Inn of the Mountain Gods. To protect graduates and attendees, seating will be socially distanced and limited. Guests will be ticketed.

Livestreaming will be available for those who are not able to attend.

“We are excited to celebrate our

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Omness Named Vice President Of Student Learning And Success

Long-time ENMU-Ruidoso employee and administrator Coda Omness has been named the college's Vice President of Student Learning and Success (VPSLS) after a national search.

She is filling a vacancy that opened with the appointment of Ryan Trosper as college president.

In her role, Omness will oversee both the academic and student success areas of the college.

She is considered a role model for students persevering to achieve. Omness graduated from ENMU-Ruidoso with an associate degree in General Studies, earned a bachelor of science degree in Elementary

Education from ENMU-Portales and a master of science in Leadership and Management from Western Governors University.

A resident of Tinnie, NM, Omness has seen service in many offices and departments of the college. Most recently, she was director of the college's unique Success Emporium while also directing ENMU-Ruidoso Adult Career Technical Education.

Previous titles have included Director of Communications and Student Services, as well as Director of Public Relations and Marketing. She has overseen college recruitment



Coda Omness

and enrollment, as well as its Community Development and Community Education programs.

She has served on the boards of numerous civic, educational and service organizations, and been an adjunct faculty at the college.

"I am extremely appreciative and honored to serve as Vice President of Student Learning and Success at ENMU-Ruidoso," Omness said. "Education has given me so many opportunities; now my focus is providing opportunities and access to our community. I look forward to working with the ENMU-Ruidoso team as we continue to move forward."



Orozco Book Recognized By Texas

ENMU-Ruidoso Professor of History and Humanities Dr. Cynthia E. Orozco's book, *Agent of Change: Adela Sloss-Vento*, Mexican American Civil Rights Activist and Texas Feminist, has been recognized as the Texas State Historical Association's Best Book on Texas Women's History for 2020.

It is not the first book or first award for Dr. Orozco. She is the author of *No Mexicans, Women or Dogs Allowed: The Rise of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement*, the University of Texas Press' best-selling academic book from 2010 to 2020 and the co-editor of *Mexican-Americans in Texas History*.

Agent of Change, her latest release, came out in February last year. The book grew out of a relationship with Sloss-Vento, who Orozco met while attending the



Dr. Orozco

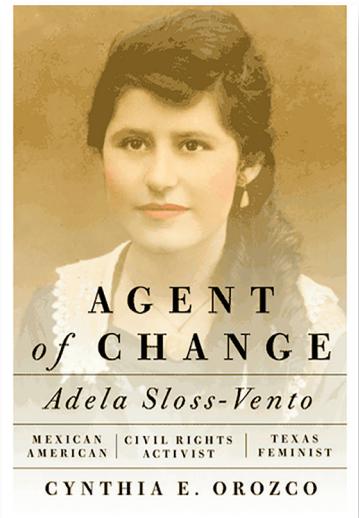
University of Texas as an undergraduate.

Orozco has also written more than 80 encyclopedia articles for the *Handbook of Texas*, and more than a hundred articles and

letters appearing in newspapers in Texas, California and New Mexico. She has appeared on C-SPAN *Book TV*.

Orozco is the daughter of Mexican immigrants and a two-time Ford Fellow. She earned her academic degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and UCLA.

She recently served on the national history scholars board for *Unladylike*, a multi-media project commemorating women of the Progressive Era and celebrating the centennial of women's suffrage. It aired on PBS and won several awards.



Agent of Change,
Dr. Orozco's Latest
Book Release

College Selected To Participate In Prestigious Conference

ENMU-Ruidoso has been selected as one of 22 community colleges across the nation to participate in the Community College Research Center's (CCRC) summer institute, Guided Pathways at Rural Colleges: Using Data to Launch Large-Scale Reform.

The CCRC summer institute will help participating colleges build the skills and knowledge needed to lead college-wide student success efforts at their institutions using the guided pathways framework, which aims to help students choose, enter, and complete programs aligned with their goals for careers and further education.

Through a blend of synchronous and asynchronous activities, teams will explore key concepts in the guided pathways framework and learn to apply them in their own contexts. CCRC researchers will help participants examine which

students are in which programs, where those programs lead, what courses students are taking, and other data essential for improving academic programs and student engagement.

By the end of the institute, teams will have data-informed plans for engaging the broader college community in conversations about planning and implementing reforms that will help them to recruit and retain students, improve student success rates, and close equity gaps.

The institute will take place virtually June 14-24.

The institute will give ENMU-Ruidoso personnel the opportunity to engage and share knowledge with community college colleagues from across the country.

The Community College Research Center is located at Columbia University in New York City. 

Elevations

The newsletter of ENMU-Ruidoso Branch Community College

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Cybersecurity Team Featured At New Mexico Public Education Conference In March



Stephen Miller

ENMU-Ruidoso Cybersecurity Center of Excellence Director Stephen Miller was a co-presenter with Brendan LaCounte at a New Mexico Public Education Department virtual conference on March 24.

The virtual event was attended by educators from across the state. Miller and LaCounte discussed data security and privacy challenges in the fast-changing virtual environment.

The presenters also addressed risks

associated with rapid deployment of infrastructure, concerns with data collection and student privacy, and opportunities to further enhance use of educational technology, and Cybersecurity Awareness resources available to students, parents and schools going forward.

ENMU-Ruidoso's Cybersecurity Center of Excellence has been recognized by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. 

Early Childhood Education Scholarships Available



The application process is now open for persons interested in a scholarship for Early Childhood Education.

The scholarship is offered through the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) Comprehensive Early Childhood Scholarship Program. Scholarships are available for both summer and fall 2021 semesters.

Applicants can apply for Early Childhood Education programs throughout New Mexico, including ENMU-Ruidoso's Early Childhood Education program, which is accessible online.

While ENMU-Ruidoso offers the first two years of a four-year degree in Early Childhood Education, the scholarship applies to individuals seeking bachelor's, masters and doctorate degrees, as well.

The ECECD Scholarship is based on a cost-share model to New Mexico early childhood educators working at a New Mexico licensed or registered childcare program, a state-funded New Mexico Pre-K or Early Pre-K program; a Head Start or Early Head Start program; a state-funded New Mexico Home Visiting program; or a New Mexico Family Infant Toddler

(FIT) program.

Through these scholarship opportunities, workers across these settings may now be afforded the time and financial resources needed to move towards certificates and degrees.

To qualify for a scholarship, an applicant must have a high school diploma or equivalent, enroll in a qualifying New Mexico institution of higher education (IHE) such as ENMU-Ruidoso and work towards a degree or certificate in Early Childhood Education, work a minimum of 20 hours per week at a qualifying Early Childhood Program in the state of New Mexico, and remain eligible throughout the duration of the scholarship.

The ECECD scholarship pays 100-percent of tuition and fees after all other financial aid has been applied. Receipt of financial aid is not a requirement for receiving the scholarship; however, all scholars are encouraged to apply for the aid.

The scholarship pays 100-percent of textbooks for approved courses.

To learn more about the scholarship, visit eecdsscholarship.org/scholarship.

To learn more about ENMU-Ruidoso's Early Childhood Education program, visit ruidoso.enmu.edu. 

New Student Club Kicks Off Drive For Cold-Weather Clothes

ENMU-Ruidoso has started its own chapter of the national organization Educators Rising. The club provides extracurricular support and professional development opportunities for ENMU-Ruidoso students studying Early Childhood Education, Elementary/Special Education, and Secondary Education at the college.

Already Ed Rising students have conducted a community service event, a

coat and warm clothing drive for students in need at Mescalero Schools.

The drive was held March 29-April 5 with donation drop-off bins located both outside ENMU-Ruidoso's campus and outside Mescalero schools.

Students received new and (clean) gently-used cold-weather clothes, such as coats, hoodies, pullovers, hats and mittens, and delivered them to Mescalero schools for distribution. 

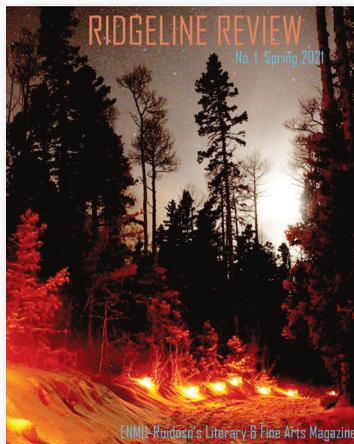


Coat and Warm Clothing Drive

New Magazine Showcases Local Talent

ENMU-Ruidoso's Department of Language and Fine Arts is releasing the college's first literary and fine arts magazine, *Ridgeline Review*, during May 2021.

"With poetry, short stories, nonfiction essays, and visual artworks from members of all ages throughout the community, including the campus, the magazine is intended to be an artistic voice for the school and



region," said department chair Jeff Frawley. "It is largely student-run and produced, thanks to our wonderful student intern, Ciara Nickell."

Details about the inaugural release of *Ridgeline Review* will be forthcoming. The first issue to be released in mid-May, with a virtual publication event to follow shortly thereafter.

Stay tuned for more info on the college's website and social media. 

New Programs Begin With Fall Semester



Registration is now open for fall classes at ENMU-Ruidoso, and several new programs are on the menu.

Specifically, local residents will be able to enroll in a Fermentation Science, Wind Energy or Nursing.

The **Nursing** program is offered through a partnership with ENMU-Roswell, with students earning the pre-nursing certificate through ENMU-Ruidoso, then completing the RN degree through ENMU-Roswell with a majority of courses taken on the Ruidoso campus.

These classes will be offered hybrid. Students can attend in person or online.

ENMU-Roswell's Associate of Science (RN) Nursing program

was recently ranked as No. 11 in the 2021 list of 15 best nursing programs in the southwest, as compiled by NursingProcess.org.

The list ranked ENMU-Roswell as eleventh out of 268 schools offering ADN programs in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma.

Students who have completed ENMU-Ruidoso's Pre-Nursing program are eligible to enroll.

The **Fermentation Science** Associate of Applied Science degree program is a 61-hour credit program that includes a 31-hour Certificate of Completion in either Enology and Viticulture or Brewing and Distilling.

Students wanting to enter the field can earn a Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate of Occupational Training with three credit hours. Once hired, students may continue to advance with an Apprenticeship Certificate of Occupational Training, a 13-hour certificate.

At that point students will specialize in either Enology and Viticulture or Brewing and Distilling, completing a 15-credit specialization certificate in either area. Finally, if a student is looking to pursue pre-management opportunities, he or she can complete 30 additional

credits to fulfill Associate of Applied Science requirements.

Wind Energy will provide students both Certificate of Completion and an Associate degree options. Certificates include a 10-credit hour Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate of Occupational Training (pre-hire), a seven credit-hour Apprentice Certificate of Occupational Training, and an 18-credit hour specialization in wind energy.

Completers may go on to earn the associate degree with an additional 27 credit hours. These certificates and A.A.S. degree will help ENMU-Ruidoso meet an industry need that is coming to the region. The course list for this program differentiates it from other existing programs and meets students' needs prior to hire and as they work in the field. Additionally, one goal of this program is to assist both dual credit and traditional students. 



From The Director

Nicole DeLorenzo



What's Happening In Community Development?

Community Development is looking forward to changes coming this summer!

With the pandemic continuing to move towards greater control, we are planning on a safe, partial reopening of many of our missed and newly created non-credit classes.

We are hoping to offer a selection of art, wellness and workforce training classes this summer both in-person, hybrid and online. We are planning to be able to bring back Kids College, community art classes,

and hiking and nature classes to campus. Updates on scheduling and details will be announced soon, in accordance with state regulations.

In addition to more in-person trainings, we are streamlining our enrollment and payment processes. Soon, individuals and groups will be able to seamlessly enroll, pay and access courses online. This new feature will allow easier access to the courses you love and exploration of other courses we offer.

Be on the lookout for Community Development updates in your

community! Our office is in the process of placing Community Development newsletter, *Pinnacle*, in well-trafficked areas throughout Lincoln County. The newsletter will provide general updates from the office, course schedules and contact information.

And as always, if you are interested in teaching a class, or your organization is in need of customized training, please contact the Office of Community Development at 575.315.1213. We are always looking for community-led classes. 

Join Us Online Or In Person!

Look online to find these Community Education courses. Registration begins soon!

2021 Summer Online

- Instant Piano—June online
- Instant Guitar—June online
- Alcohol Server Certification
- Computer & Network Cyber Security Cert
- CompTIA's Security Prep



Kids College



Water Rescue

2021 Summer In-Person

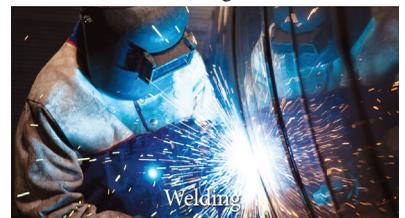
- Kids College
- Basic employability skills hybrid options
- Outback Hiking
- Community Choir
- Ceramics
- Freestyle Painting
- Yoga
- Basic Survival Skills
- Fly Fishing
- Water Rescue
- Alcohol Server Certification



Painting

2021 Fall

- Pilates
- Yoga
- Memoir Writing
- Basic Computer Skills
- Creative Aging Classes
- Grants 101 Workshop
- Career Pathways
- Community Choir
- Ceramics
- Freestyle Painting
- Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Bootcamp
- Homeschool tutoring
- Alcohol Server Certification
- Fire Science—Structural
- Fire Science—Wildland
- Intro to Welding



Welding

From the Executive Director

Rhonda Vincent

Programs and Scholarships



This year begins with high expectations for the ENMU-Ruidoso Foundation, primarily based on our very popular

Annual Aim High Sporting Clay Fundraiser, held each summer for the past several years.

The arrival of COVID-19 forced us to cancel Aim High in 2020, and left us with the pressing issue: What to do to keep our momentum raising funds for ENMU-Ruidoso programs and scholarships when so many area students need financial assistance?

It is for these students that the Foundation exists and works.

Rather than concede 2020 to COVID-19, the Foundation changed directions. Thanks to 300 generous individuals willing to “take a chance” at winning an elk tag or rifle, the Foundation replaced Aim High revenue—and perhaps salvaged the dreams and aspirations of dozens of local students.

Now, given the popularity of the elk tag raffle, 2021 gives us a “double opportunity” to raise funds for local students and programs!

And it kicks off with our familiar Aim High event, now scheduled for June 26, 2021, at Inn of the Mountain Gods!

Mark the date on your calendar and make plans to join us! We love the sport—but we take our mission seriously. 



Foundation Sets Aim High Fundraiser for June 26

ENMU-Ruidoso Foundation’s popular fundraiser, Aim High, is scheduled for Saturday, June 26, at Inn of the Mountain Gods. Aim High is a sporting clay event which features teams competing for fun and prizes, with entry fees going to support student scholarships and other educational activities of the ENMU-Ruidoso Foundation. Each year, the event has increased the amount of funds raised, from a modest \$10,686 in 2016 to more than \$31,000 in 2019, the last year the event was held. Aim High was canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19.

This year’s event is a full-day

of activity, beginning with the 100-round sporting clay shoot that starts at 8:30 a.m. Cost to participate is \$150 per person for adults 18 and older, and \$125 for ages 17 and below.

All participants are automatically entered to win a Beretta A-400, which will be awarded at the evening banquet.

Evening activities include a cash bar at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., and a dance at 7 p.m. Cost to attend evening activities only is \$40 per person or \$70 per couple.

For additional information about Aim High, contact Foundation Director Rhonda Vincent at rhonda.vincent@enmu.edu, or call 575.937.1475. 

Scholarships Help Students Finance A College Education



Although tuition at ENMU-Ruidoso is among the lowest in the state, many students need financial assistance while attending college.

The ENMU-Ruidoso Foundation provides scholarships to students that have financial need. Most scholarships are for full-time students. Many have been established through endowments or trusts, and these are awarded based on a criteria set up by donors. The amount of these scholarships vary.

Scholarships are awarded for the academic year. This means that the total amount is

divided between fall and spring semesters. If a student graduates in December, only the fall portion will be awarded.

Many scholarships are renewable. To be eligible to receive a scholarship again, a student must reapply each year.

The Foundation is currently seeking applications for the fall 2021-2022 academic year. Early applications, received by April 30, are encouraged.

Applications may be obtained online at enmu.edu/foundation/scholarships, or may be picked up at the Student Emporium office at the college. 

From The President

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which they could apply their talents to improve their lives and build a better world for their families.

These graduates persevered. So did our staff and faculty, who thought of and implemented new ways to help that has led us to this graduation celebration and ceremony.

A small ceremony beside the shining lake at Inn of the Mountain Gods, socially distanced with a limited number of guests, is the least we can

do for these whose tenacity is an inspiration for the rest of us. They did not quit on themselves. They did not give up on their future. They stuck it out. They found ways to overcome, to work around, to get the job done even in the hard times.

So we honor them. We celebrate perseverance, realizing that what they have learned from their studies is only a part of what has truly shaped them. Our

community and nation will be stronger from what these students learned in a time of crisis.

On behalf of ENMU-Ruidoso Branch Community College, we salute the graduating class of 2021. Go forward, and continue to be unstoppable.



With Nexus Project Phase 2 Complete, It's On To Phase 3

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Phase 1 project, an adjacent 16,000 square feet of space which once housed a retail furniture store.

With the completion of Phase 2, Phase 3, the last portion of the ambitious plan, commences almost immediately. With funds provided primarily from the November 2020 Higher Education GO Bond, the college will add a distinctive facade that aesthetically ties what were once two separate buildings into a single unit.

Work on the facade is scheduled to begin in late summer or early fall.



College Plans "In Person" Spring 2021 Commencement

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students' amazing perseverance through a most unusual and difficult year," said President Ryan Trosper. "The great majority of our courses have been offered online, which was difficult for many of them. But these individuals didn't give up; they pushed through and succeeded in their course work. For that reason, we are proud to

hand them their credentials and celebrate with them and their families."

By hosting an outdoor commencement, the college is complying with state guidelines for health and safety. In the case of inclement weather, the event will be moved inside the Inn's convention center.

Should the state or area experience a new spike in COVID-19 cases, the college has back-up plans to convert to a virtual graduation, as it held in May 2020.

Additional information and frequent updates about spring commencement will be posted on the college's website: ruidoso.enmu.edu.

Register Now For Summer and Fall Classes!

ruidoso.enmu.edu