



**NEW MEXICO FIRST**

*People. Ideas. Progress.*

## New Mexico First and Project SHARE NM Newsletter

Stay Informed and Engaged

May 18, 2020

---



# College is Out. What's Happening to Students?

All of New Mexico's colleges and universities have responded to the Governor's "stay at home" order and closed or restricted access to their campuses. As classrooms and services have moved online, students have adapted. This has created challenges for students who now need to find ways to access the internet. Those who were living and eating on campus need to find alternatives. Student parents who were using on-campus childcare may need to find new childcare arrangements.

Each of the campuses have somewhat different arrangements. [Check this chart](#) to find links to COVID-19 information for a particular campus.

[Learn more here](#)



## Resources for Students

**Emergency Relief Funds.** Over \$62 million in grants have gone to NM's higher education institutions and students through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEER), authorized by the CARES Act. Half, or \$31 million, must go

towards providing cash grants to students for expenses related to disruptions to their educations due to the COVID-19 outbreak, including things like course materials and technology as well as food, housing, health care, and childcare. Institutions will use the remaining funds to cover costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus. The CARES Act also suspended all payments of federally held student loans, but only through September 30, 2020.

**HEER Funds.** Students eligible for federal financial aid can be considered for HEER funds. Financial aid offices will use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data to determine student eligibility. The U.S. Department of Education does not allow these funds to be used for international students, undocumented students, non-matriculated/non-degree seeking students, or students enrolled in distance-only degree programs. Much of this funding has already been allocated to students. If you believe you are eligible and have not received this funding, contact your institution's financial aid office.

**Food.** A few universities and colleges are still providing food to students. [NMSU's Aggie Cupboard](#), Northern New Mexico College's [food pantry and clothing closet](#), San Juan College's food pantry, UNM's [Lobo Pantry](#), and [WNMU's One-Stop](#) are open to meet student needs. Santa Fe Community College has partnered with [World Central Kitchen](#) to feed students, their families, and the local community. Find a food resource by adding your location to [this search](#). Students may be eligible for SNAP benefits, which have recently been expanded. If you are looking for food assistance, please visit the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) eligibility page](#). SNAP applications: <https://www.yes.state.nm.us/>. The SNAP program is delivered by the Human Services Department. The Human Services Department delivers high quality health and human services that improve the security and promote independence for New Mexicans in their

communities.

**Childcare.** New Mexico's childcare facilities and programs are now permitted to serve all NM families. All childcare facilities are asked to follow reduced group size and health and safety guidelines, and not all are open. To find a childcare center that is open near you, [search this list](#) at New Mexico Kids. The list is updated regularly, but changes happen quickly, so call first.

### The CARES Act



What About Jobs and Careers?

For many college graduates, the COVID-19 emergency means more than a difficult last semester and no graduation ceremonies. Many economists are predicting that graduating seniors will have a rough entry into the job market. While many college students find internships and apprenticeships a route into a full-time job, these opportunities have also been limited due to the coronavirus. A [recent poll](#) by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) reports a steady push toward moving internships online or limiting them in size and duration.

This shift away from internships is not only a lost opportunity for our college students but also our communities and New Mexico's future economy. Internships and apprenticeships help students acquire valuable experiences and a pathway to steady employment while earning money and learning critical, in-demand skills. Apprenticeships grow the economy by making American businesses more productive and competitive. Employers who sponsor apprentices gain skilled workers, reduce employee turnover, and improve productivity.

It's not all bad news. Newport News Nuclear BWXT Los Alamos (N3B) and Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) are partnering on a [96-week Apprenticeship Program](#) for nuclear operators at Northern. In addition to providing valuable skills, N3B hires the students in the program as full-time N3B employees, providing them with a competitive salary and benefits, as well as funds for tuition, books, fees, and other materials.

"Our people are the greatest resource we have. They are [New Mexico True Talent](#) -- able to build a state stronger and more economically resilient than before the pandemic. This isn't about returning to what was...now is the time to spark an economic revival for our state by unleashing the earning power of people. Industry working in partnership with education can actively participate in

developing well-qualified talent pipelines by engaging in the five “ships” of work-based learning: leadership, mentorship, internship, apprenticeship, and externships for teachers. Recovery is not enough. It’s time for a revival!” Tracey Bryan, Executive Director, The Bridge of Southern New Mexico, New Mexico First Board member, and Chair of the State Workforce Development Board.

### [National Association of Colleges and Employers \(NACE\)](#)



## Tip for Civility: Distinguish between the Person and the Behavior

In times of stress, when conflicts are more likely to escalate, it is important to distinguish a person from their behavior. Each of us is more than our behaviors--good or bad, kind or inconsiderate, respectful or rude. When we conflate a person with their behaviors, it is far too easy to dismiss one another. If a person rather than their behavior is rude, we can easily justify our rude behavior. However, if we extend empathy, understanding, and compassion, we are better able to recognize positive and negative behaviors while resisting divisive approaches. Recognizing

a person as having value even when their behavior is unappreciated allows us to honor the other person still. This section is authored by New Mexico First's President and Executive Director, Lilly Irvin-Vitela. If you would like to communicate with Lilly, she can be reached at [lilly@nmfirst.org](mailto:lilly@nmfirst.org).



## New Mexico Voter Information Portal

The New Mexico [Voter Information Portal](#) is your one-stop shop for voting information! You can use this site to register to vote or update your current voter registration, request an absentee ballot online, find a voting location, view important election dates, request a military or overseas ballot, or look up third-party voter registration agents.

## [New Mexico Voter Information Portal](#)

### 2020 Primary Election Contest/Candidate List

View candidates for the 2020 Primary election.

## [Candidate List](#)

### Absentee Ballot Application

Get your absentee ballot application for the primary election [here](#).

## [Click Here to Get Your Absentee Ballot](#)



#### Online

Respond online using the Internet or a smartphone



#### On the Phone

Respond over the telephone by calling the census call center listed on the census card



#### By Paper

You can fill out a PAPER CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE in English or Spanish.

If you do not receive a U.S. Census postcard in the mail with your unique I.D. number, you can still self-respond to the census questionnaire. *In May of 2020, the Census Bureau will begin following up with households that have not responded.*

## The 2020 Census is CONVENIENT

For the first time, we are able to complete the U.S. Census questionnaire form online. You can conveniently complete the form online, over the phone in addition to using a paper form at a time that works best for you.

[Complete the Census](#)

[Click Here to Download Previous Newsletters](#)

## **Our Mission. Our Values.**

### **Our Mission**

To be a catalyst for positive change by engaging citizens in policy and enabling action.

### **Our Core Values**

Meaningfully engaging New Mexicans in public policy; Striving for and respecting consensus; Pursuing and respecting diverse points of views; Ensuring inclusion and transparency; Rising above partisan politics; Changing policy to improve people's lives; Creating an informed citizenry that is powerfully motivated; Reaching out statewide including rural and tribal communities; Partnering with others; Promoting civility and Democracy at its best!

[Donate to New Mexico First](#)



*Copyright © 2020 New Mexico First, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

P.O. Box 56549, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States, 87187

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [unsubscribe from this list](#).