



Legislative Finance Committee Presentation

Presented by: César G. Abarca, Dean and Professor Facundo Valdez School of Social Work

Wednesday September 18th, 2024

Presentation Outline

- Mission
- Programs and Centers
- Endowment Funds - Key Accomplishments
- Benefits of Legislative Funding
- RPSP Status
- Center of Excellence in Social Work - Key Accomplishments
- Native American Social Work Studies Institute - Key Accomplishments
- Minority Services-Spanish Project - Key Accomplishments
- Social Work Education Enhancements (SWEEP) Raíces Project
- Enrollment & Opportunities
- Future Expansion Effort
- Career Pathways





FACUNDO VALDEZ SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

*Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence in
Academics, Research, and Community
Engagement*

The mission of the Facundo Valdez School of Social Work is to educate students to practice social work competently with the diverse, multicultural populations of New Mexico and the Southwest.



Facundo Valdez School of Social Work (FVSSW)

- Programs
 - BSW In- Person
 - MSW In-Person and Online
 - MSW Concentrations: Clinical, Bilingual/Bicultural, & Leadership and Administration
- Four Locations: Las Vegas (Main Campus), Farmington (San Juan College), Santa Fe (Higher Education Center) and Albuquerque (ABQ)
- Special Project and Centers
 - Center for Excellence in Social Work (CESW)
 - Native American Social Work Studies Institute (NASWSI)
 - Social Work Enhanced Education Project - Raíces (SWEEP-Raíces)



Endowment Funds:

Key Accomplishments

- Four Endowed Faculty
 - 1.0 FTE Endowed Faculty to Support the NASW-SI (Dr. Rachelle Tenorio)
 - 2.0 FTE Endowed Faculty dedicated to Online Program (Dr. Erik Rolstad and Dr. Annie Allen)
 - 1.0 FTE Endowed faculty dedicate to BSW and MSW Programs (Dr. Craig Stern)
 - Instructional Designer dedicated for Online Program – Ruth Sandoval
- Disbursed in AY 2023-2024, 153 awards to Social Work Students Receiving totaling \$550,800 in Scholarships
- Graduates AY 19 – AY 23
 - 349 Undergraduates: Bachelor's in Social Work
 - 735 Graduates: Master's in Social Work



Benefits of Legislative Funding for Social Work Stakeholders

Endowment Funding

- \$8,000,000 for Endowed Social Work Faculty for the improvement of the Faculty-In-Training (FIT) Program, the Native American Social Work Studies Institute (NASW-SI), and the Online Master of Social Work Program, with the aim of increasing the number of Native American graduates and graduates practicing in Tribal communities and increasing the number of enrolled students from rural communities.
- Practicum Endowments converted into \$3600 per semester awards, \$7200 per academic year

OUTCOMES

- Supported the Salary of four (4) Full-time Tenure-Track Faculty: Two (2) specifically assigned to the online program, one dedicated to the NASWSI.
- Ability to implement, support, and expand the MSW Online Program- The MSW Advanced Standing was recently added to the online program with a new cohort starting on January 2025.
- Established stability in faculty support for the BSW and MSW Programs.
- Provide financial support for MSW students who are NM residents and completing their practicum.



FVSSW RPSP Status

- \$156,989 for the **Bilingual/Bicultural Social Work Concentration** (FY 2024 now integrated in I&G funding; four years of funding)
- \$500,000 for the **Center for Excellence in Social Work** (FY 2024; third year of funding)
- \$250,000 for the **Native American Social Work Studies Institute** (FY 2024- fifth year of funding)





CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Key Accomplishments

Mission: The Center's commitment lies in growing our workforce while driving innovation in social work education, policy, and research, emphasizing antiracism, anti-oppression, and cultural responsiveness.

- **Key Accomplishments:**

- Hired Director and Staff in AY 2023-2024.
- Developed Environmental Racism, Environmental Justice and Social Work Practice Elective, taught in Summer 2024 to **21 BSW and MSW students**.
- Provided legislative training and hosted 9 students at the NMHU Social Work Student Legislative Day.
- Provided research for the 2024 NM House of Representatives Certificate of Recognition for Environmental Justice as a Core Competency for Social Workers Practicing in New Mexico.
- Convened first 2024 New Mexico Social Work Education Summit at New Mexico Tech with 55 faculty, adjunct faculty, practicum instructors, and students representing ENMU, NMHU, NMSU and WNMU and UNM.



- Presented Social Work Workforce Brief to the New Mexico Legislative Health and Human Services Interim Committee
<https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/nfHZd/9/>
- Conducted 2024 Social Workers of New Mexico Survey with 755 respondents, disseminated report and recommendations statewide, including the New Mexico Legislative Health and Human Services Interim Committee
- Provided free or low-cost continuing education workshops, legislative advocacy trainings and Social Justice Teach-Ins to **1,167 Students and Providers Statewide**
- Issued **1237 Continuing Education Credits (CEUs), including 950 Cultural CEUs**, for multiple stakeholders





H NEW MEXICO
HIGHLANDS
UNIVERSITY

NATIVE AMERICAN
SOCIAL WORK STUDIES INSTITUTE

Key Accomplishments

- **Mission:** To educate and train social workers to provide services for tribal nations and indigenous communities by promoting resiliency, cultural knowledge, wisdom and healing
- **Key Accomplishments:**
 - Developed and led the approval by NMHU’s Academic Affairs Committee for a course entitled Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): Protecting Native Child Wellbeing.
 - Two courses during AY23-24, the ICWA course and an elective entitled Navigating Tribal Government Structures.
 - Hosted two, day-long events: Addressing the Social-Emotional Needs of Native American Students in Social Work and Youth Skills-Based Training: Recruiting a New Generation of Social Workers, with **75 high school students in attendance.**
 - Offered trainings to **42 Tribal Social Services Providers**, including a Cultural Considerations in Working With Native American Elders and an Intimate Partner Violence Death Review Team Training.
- In April 2024, NASW-SI’s Director, Dr. Melissa Riley accepted a Faculty in Residence position at NMHU’s School of Education. A Director Search is underway.



Minority Services-Spanish Joint Grant (Schools of Education and Social Work): Key Accomplishments

- **Mission:** Jointly shared by NMHU's School of Education and the Facundo Valdez School of Social Work, this program's mission is to improve Spanish-language clinical services to social work clients, increase educational opportunities and delivery of instruction to Spanish-speaking migrants, to support the School of Education (SOE) Bilingual Program, and train professionals to address the need for improved mental health services within the state.
- **Key Accomplishments:**
 - Funds support 1 FTE Social Work Faculty (Prof. Reyna Rivera), .5 FTE School of Education Faculty, 3 Spanish Immersion Coordinators, and Interdisciplinary Faculty programming instructors.
- **FVSSW Bilingual/Bicultural Program graduated the following bilingual/bicultural students:**
(AY 2021 - 2022) = **31 students**; (AY 2022 - 2023) = **37 students**; And (AY 2023-2024) = **30 students**



- NMHU also hosts the **Residential Summer Spanish Immersion Institute (SSII)**, a 6-credit, week-long intensive undergraduate/graduate course, each summer at the Las Vegas campus. Outcomes are:
- **The SSII program in 2022, 2023, and 2024 has supported 42 pre-service/in-service bilingual educators across 9 school districts and 3 state charters** including APS, Rio Rancho, Carlsbad, Española, Santa Fe, Pojoaque, West Las Vegas, Central Consolidated, Roswell, SODA, SABE, and *Cien Aguas* (One Hundred Waters) International School.
 - Notably, the passing rate for participants taking the Prueba de Español Exam over the past three summers has been a commendable 80%.
 - Funds are also utilized to provide scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students who attended the SSII. Scholarships for participants pay for tuition and fees, lodging, food, stipends for cultural presentations by community members, the Prueba de Español exam fee, and materials accordingly.
 - 100% of SSII participants strongly agreed that the SSI helped them prepare for the Bilingual Certification Spanish Exam, and 90% strongly agreed and 10% agreed that the SSII met its learning objectives.



Social Work Educational Enhancement Project-Raíces (US Dept. of Education)

- 5-year grant, will begin Year 5 on October 1, 2024
 - Potential of a year 6 no cost extension
 - Impact of outreach and community education will be more evident in years to come (eg. youth outreach)
 - Efforts have supported increases in retention and graduation

Next steps: what has had greatest impact and is needed to continue to support students, faculty, staff and community?

- Institutionalization plan
 - What efforts can be embedded into existing roles?
 - NMHU commitment to cover Instructional Designer role through general fund.
- Sustainability plan:
 - Determine operating budget considering institutionalized efforts.
 - Seek funding and diversify funding sources.



Enrollment Challenges for FVSSW

- NMHU has 37% of the NM online market in Social Work
- Decline in enrollment at main campus and at the center due to multiple factors:
 - COVID Pandemic
 - Transition of leadership in the FVSSW
 - Increase competition and number of online programs

	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	2023- 2024	Fall '24
BSW	695	603	549	510	394	337	320	171
MSW	879	909	818	800	847	893	813	506



Enrollment Opportunities for FVSSW

- Submission to CSWE for approval of the BSW Online Program – Projected to begin Fall 2025.
- Schoolwide Outreach program with the support of the SWEEP-Raices team, targeting Farmington and Santa Fe Center as priority.
- Continue to increase our capacity to recruit from traditional in-coming 1st year , transfer, non-traditional students and now targeting Social Work paraprofessional with trainings, certificates, and developing the option to earn college-credit.



Future Expansion Efforts

- Submitting a RPSP request for FY26 to develop the state's first and only Doctorate of Social Work Program to address New Mexico's critical shortage of social work professionals and faculty through advanced, high-quality education that is grounded in the unique cultural and regional context of our state.
- Develop the first Association of Community Organization and Social Action (ACOSA)-accredited Community Practice Certificate in the nation.
- Convene the first Statewide Social Work Student Legislative Training Series and host 2025 Social Work Student Advocacy and Action Day at the Legislature, including students from all Schools of Social Work statewide.
- Expand the 2025 Social Work Education Summit to 2 days with a student research track.
- Conduct and disseminate findings from a 2025 Social Work Student Wellbeing Survey
 - Requesting funding to support development of Rise and Thrive 30-Hour Child and Family Wellbeing Interdisciplinary Certificate, including trainer, funding for offsite trainings and travel.

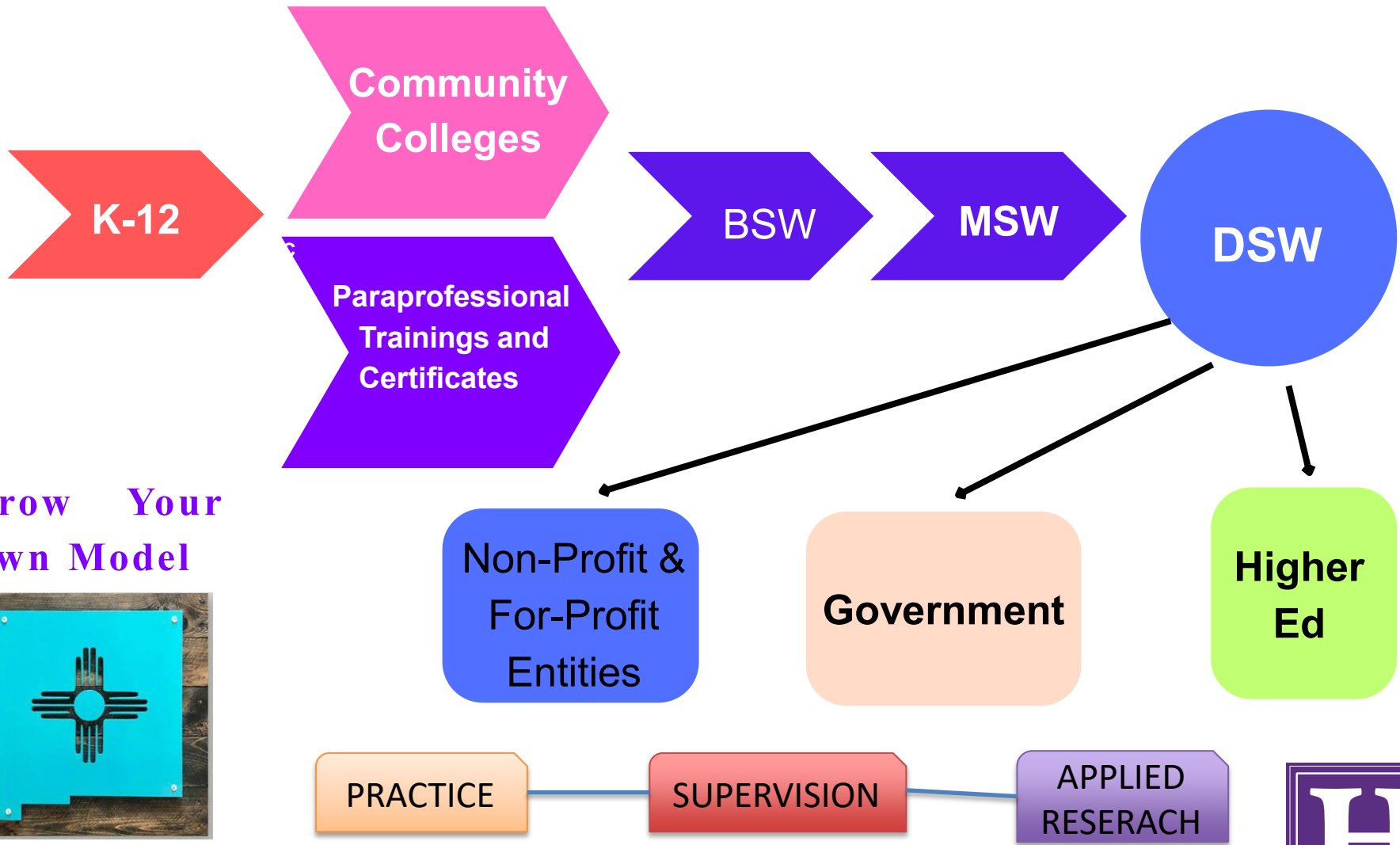


Future Expansion Efforts

- Deepen Partnership with CYFD
 - Received funding from US Department of Labor for a 12-month limited action project, including providing training to 100 CYFD Protective Service workers without social work degrees.
 - Requesting funding to support development of Rise and Thrive 30-Hour Child and Family Wellbeing Interdisciplinary Certificate, including trainer, funding for offsite trainings and travel.
 - Foster new funded partnerships with the Albuquerque Community Safety and UNM Health Sciences Center.



NM Educational & Professional Pathways



Grow Your Own Model



Q & A

Dr. Cesar Abarca

Dean, Facundo Valdez School of Social Work

(505) 429-1107

cabarca@nmhu.edu