

January 2023

A Message from the Program Director, Kim

Greetings UNM Gallup students, alumni, faculty and parents! Happy New Year and happy spring semester. We are looking ahead and we wish that you be blessed with good health and happiness! We value your staying connected to us, so we want to take this opportunity to celebrate our TRIO/SSS participants.

We wanted to take a moment to remind you of all the resources provided by TRIO/SSS, the UNM Gallup campus and all the staff that are committed to help you reach your goals. Despite all available resources, please remember that your success depends on you and how active you are as a participant in your educational journey. So many of you have shared your passion with us that shows resilience as you face new challenges during your educational journey. We support you, reach out to the SSS staff, your peer tutors, peer mentors and each other to make your dreams of achieving a college degree into a reality.

Through this supportive community we are continually inspired to assist you in reaching your goals. Keep in mind the thoughts on how you can be your best advocate and be an active participant in your educational journey. Thank you all for investing in one another and creating this amazing TRIO/SSS community.

On behalf of all TRIO/SSS Staff, Best wishes this semester,
TRIO/SSS Director, Kimimila Simms

“Be a bush if you can’t be a tree. If you can’t be a highway, just be a trail. If you can’t be a sun, be a star. For it isn’t by size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are”

Martin Luther King Jr from his 1967 speech at Glenville High School

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January Calendar

The UNM Priority deadline to file your 2023/24 FAFSA:

Thursday, January 5th, 2023

Submitting after this date can exclude you from certain types of priority aid. You must also submit any required additional documentation by February 1 in order to be considered for priority aid.

The FAFSA is your application for grants (free money), work study (money you earn), and loans (money you pay back). If you have any question don't hesitate to stop by TRIO/SSS and we can help you!

Jan 1 New Year's Day

Jan 5 FAFSA Priority Deadline

Jan 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan 17 First Day of Spring Semester

**Jan 19 Canvas Navigation
Workshop 3:00 -4:00 pm**

Jan 31 Welcome Back Cereal Bar

Happy Birthday!

Suraya

Francis

Shiniya

Gregory

Nadine

Aaliyah

Student of the Month

Christopher Bettelyoun

How does it feel to be student of the month?

Rewarding. This has made me feel accomplished. I didn't expect to get good grades being a full-time dad. I have been out of school about 10-20 years, overcame the generation gap which took awhile to adjust to

Do you have any student habits you would recommend to other students?

What are they?

Working ahead and following the syllabus. The teachers give previews of what is going to be in the class and the materials. Knowing what to expect and pay attention.

What is your favorite thing about TRIO/SSS?

I like the available resources they provide such as tutoring, computers, equipment check out to help student succeed I also like the happy and positive bunch to be around.

Is there someone you are particularly thankful for or would like to acknowledge?

My two children who are both teenagers. I want to show them that I can be a good role model and work hard because school will pay off in the future.



Where do you plan to transfer after graduation?

I want to stay in Gallup and take online Bachelors programs that are offered here on our campus or as online degrees.

5 fun facts about you

- I like playing basketball with my son
- I like school (English classes)
- I am a Army Veteran and I have received a Purple Heart Medal
- I would like to write a book of past life experiences
- Like to cook homeade meals

TRIO/SSS Alumni Spotlight

Brandon Lewis

Brandon Lewis was born and raised in Gallup, New Mexico. After graduating high school he joined the Marine Corps, where he served for 8 years. When he returned he worked for the BNSF railroad for 12 years and he eventually decided to go back to school.

Brandon went back to school at UNM Gallup. He went on to graduate with his AA in Automotive Technology in 2020. After which he joined the Oils Program with UNM Main Campus and completed this Fall 2022 with his Bachelor's Degree. Brandon joined TRIO/SSS around 2018. He started off through the Veteran's Resource Center and signed up for TRIO/SSS. He considered TRIO to be tremendous resources offered to students on campus. With his experience working at the UNM Gallup Zollinger Library, he has recommended many students to TRIO so they too can utilize all the great resources that TRIO offers. He says TRIO is like added security for students during their educational journeys.



Brandon also participates in efforts around the community such as donating to Toys for Tots, and working with NIYC and Veteran's Students. He also made donations to our Angel Tree event. He finds much fulfillment in giving back to those in need and putting a smile on people's faces.

He encourages students to continue their educational careers and to think beyond what is currently holding you back.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. Both his grandfather and father served as pastors for the Ebenezer Baptist Church. This is where Martin would eventually co-pastor alongside his father.

Martin Luther King Jr. graduated from high school at fifteen years old. In 1948, he then earned his B. A. degree and B. D. degree in 1951. Eventually, he graduated with his Doctorate in 1955.

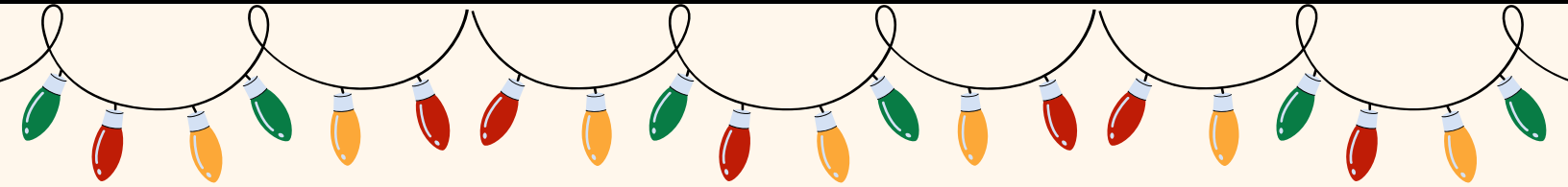


Martin Luther King Jr.

He then went on to become the pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in 1954 and was an executive member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by this time. He also led a 382 day long boycott against laws requiring segregation on buses. King was then elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957. He went on to lead many peaceful and impactful civil rights protests.

He would travel to many places to speak on civil right issues. He would then go on to deliver his "I Have A Dream" speech in Washington D.C. King then went on to become the youngest man to receive the Noble Peace Prize at 35. King was without a doubt, a very accomplished man and a role model for those seeking justice.

2022 Holiday in New Mexico



UNM-Gallup had such a great turnout this year at our Holiday in New Mexico celebration! It was our first Holiday in New Mexico in two years and we are so thankful to be able to participate in events like this once again! We'd like to give our gratitude to everyone involved in putting this event together and to everyone that showed up. We hope everyone had a great time and we hope to see you all again next year!



2023-2024 FAFSA Drawing Winners



Every FAFSA opening day in October, we host an incentive for our TRIO/SSS students; if you complete the FAFSA in our office and receive assistance from the staff we will put you in a drawing to win a prize basket! Congratulations to all the drawing winners! Maegan, Chris, Adam, Stephanie, Felicia, Maryam, Jennifer, Brittney, Lachelle and Chandra! All others won another prize! Thank you for participating!



2022 Angel Tree Recap

The TRIO/SSS Student Club and staff worked to receive donations from our Lobo community to give a Christmas gift to a Grandparent at the Red Rocks Care Center & Genesis Care Home. I am so proud of everyone who worked to make this a reality and to all those donated we give a heartfelt, THANK YOU!!



Fall 2022 TRIO/SSS Graduates

