

University of New Mexico-Gallup Campus
Staff and Faculty Mini-Grant Application Form
For 2017 - 2018 Fiscal Year

Division: *Adult Education*

Project Title: *"It Begins in the Hogan:" An intergenerational Reading Center at North Campus*

New Project: Yes

Have you received funding this fiscal year? No

1. **Description of the project:** *Recently, the two north side elementary schools were consolidated into one—Del Norte—located right behind our Adult Education Center at North Campus. We have been collaborating with them for the last year, ranging from a storytelling in the spring to our NorthFest Language/Literacy Festival just last week when over 400 Del Norte students and teachers visited our campus. (see the Independent on 9/15/17 and 9/18/17 for more details). Inspired by our Adult Education Elders who are training with us through our partnership with New Mexico Aging and Long Term Services, the idea was born to construct a small Hogan on our campus where our students, Del Norte students, families and community members could share stories and read to each other in a culturally and aesthetically meaningful environment.*

2. **Rationale for how the project will benefit the faculty, staff, students, UNM-G, or the communities at large:** *Illiteracy is one of the major challenges facing the people of our state, and our county has one of the highest illiteracy rates in the country. Illiteracy is one of the primary causes of drop-outs, unemployment, and incarceration. In our region, oral not literary tradition is valued. And while there are legitimate historical reasons for this, seldom do families or educational institutions seek to bridge these two valuable approaches to linguistic, cultural, and artistic knowledge. This project seeks to do just that. A Hogan is traditionally viewed as a center for learning. Intergenerational relations are the traditional way of learning, so by incorporating literacy into this established and respected manner of oral teaching, we could improve the reading skills of our adult learners as well as the children of Del Norte—who live in the neighborhood surrounding North Campus. Our Adult Education Center also strives to be a good neighbor and project a positive image of UNM, so this Hogan, located on our campus, across the street from Del Norte, and at a major north side intersection, could well become a "local icon." Finally, we would have our students assist with the construction of the hogan under the supervision of our Adult Education Elders. This project would provide an opportunity to learn cultural wisdom and job skills, as well as serving as a legacy of the students and Elders who construct it.*

3. Expected outcomes or products of this project:

- a) *Improved reading (and reading scores) for both students at North Campus and Del Norte*
- b) *Increased retention of North Campus students as they build connections with the children, find more meaning in reading, and discover more relevancy in learning.*
- c) *Develop community pride for all who live and work on the north side (which is generally viewed as “the wrong side of the tracks”)*
- d) *Honor regional culture connecting it positively with UNM-G*
- e) *Enhance the aesthetic of the north side (again often viewed as the ugly/poor side of Gallup)*
- f) *Increase involvement of students who struggle with abstract learning by providing an important hands-on project to apply their math, language, and cultural skills.*
- g) *Continue our center’s tradition of student legacy*
- h) *Make Adult Education students proud of returning to school and not ashamed—as is often the case with Adult Learners.*

4. Describe the timeline for the project, resources needed, and the person responsible for each action step.

When: *We would like to begin this project in October and have it completed by the end of November/early December (recognizing that since this is an outdoor project, there could be weather delays). We would like to have a celebration upon its completion.*

Action Steps & Responsible Persons:

- 1) *Review, design, draft, and finalize design (Adult Education Elders & Program Director)*
- 2) *Develop Materials list and purchase lumber and construction materials (Elders & Program Coordinator)*
- 3) *Recruit students who want to learn and assist (Elders, Staff, & Director)*
- 4) *Start construction around mid-October (Elders & Students)*
- 5) *Notify local media outlets to run stories on project (Elders, Director, Coordinator)*
- 6) *Upon completion have celebration and open house with our students, Del Norte Students, UNM-G, and community members (North Campus Staff)*

Resources Needed: *Lumber and other building materials*

Estimated budget with justifications: We are requesting \$2000. \$1000 for materials and \$1000 to pay the Elder/Construction Supervisor/Cultural Instructor

5. **What other funding sources have you explored? Give details.** (Note: funds for this mini-grant must be expended by June 30, 2018)

a) *New Mexico Aging and Long Term Services --Since our Elders come through NMALTS, we are exploring the possibility of funding from this agency because this will be considered job-training for the Elders involved and so the agency might be able to fund some of the necessary tools and labor.*

b) *City of Gallup/City Council—We received funding for our recent NorthFest Celebration from the City Councilor for the north side, who has expressed continuing support for our work to improve this neighborhood, increase collaborations, and encourage education. We are planning to attend the City Council meeting next week to explore the possibility*

6. If application is approved, the applicant must electronically submit the written final report as a pdf file to the Committee Chair, Alok Dhital, adhital@gallup.unm.edu, within two weeks upon the completion of the project.

Prepared by (please type or print): *Laura Jijon* **Date:** *9/20/2107*

Approval or Denial (please circle one):

Laura Jijon

Division Chair or Supervisor

9.22.17

Date

Approval or Denial (please circle one)

Alok Dhital

Chair, Mini-Grant Committee

10/9/2017

Date

Approval or Denial (please circle one)

[Signature]

Director of Business Operation

10-11-17

Date

Reason(s) for denial. (Applicant may resubmit proposal for 2018-19):