


Who are our Graduate Students?

Decorative elements on the left side of the slide, including a large red arrow pointing right and several thin, curved lines in shades of brown and grey.

Ian Williamson, Graduate Dean for Highlands University

Dashboards

- Slide 1
 - Headcounts
 - By School or College
 - By Location
 - By Returning
 - By residence
- Slide 2: Some two variable plots, I find the campus by college graph most interesting.
- Slide 3: Gender, Age, and Out of State Students



Top Performers on Social Mobility

- Economically disadvantaged students are less likely than others to finish college, even when controlling for their achievement in high school. But some colleges are more successful than others at advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell Grants. The vast majority of these federal grants are awarded to students whose adjusted gross family incomes are under \$50,000.
- <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/regional-universities-west/social-mobility?sort=rank&sortDirection=asc>
- New Mexico Highlands University is #36 in the country on this indicator, #1 in NM, and #1 outside of CA, TX, and WA

NMHU Student Enrollment

College

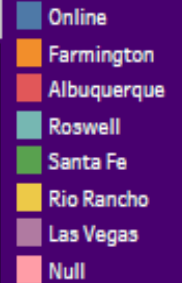
Location

Demographics

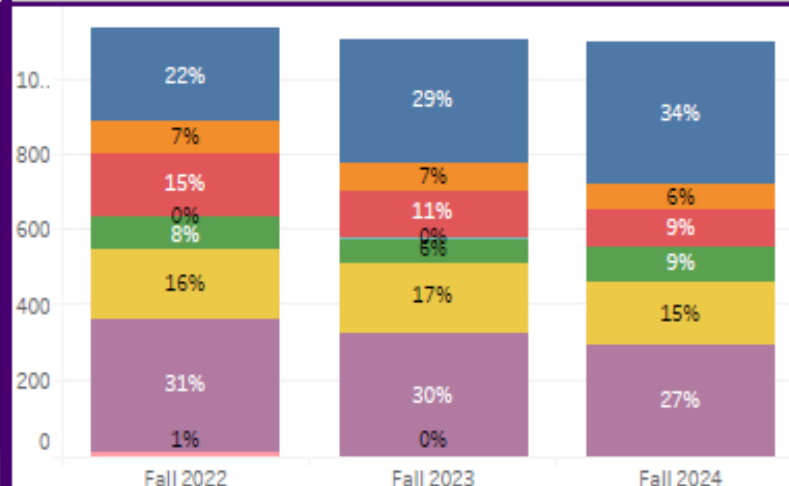
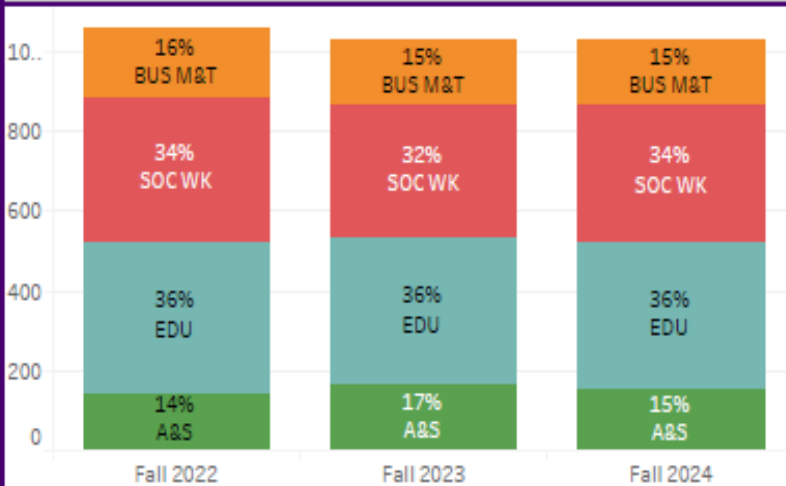
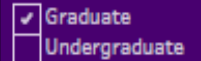
By College

Students by Location

Campus



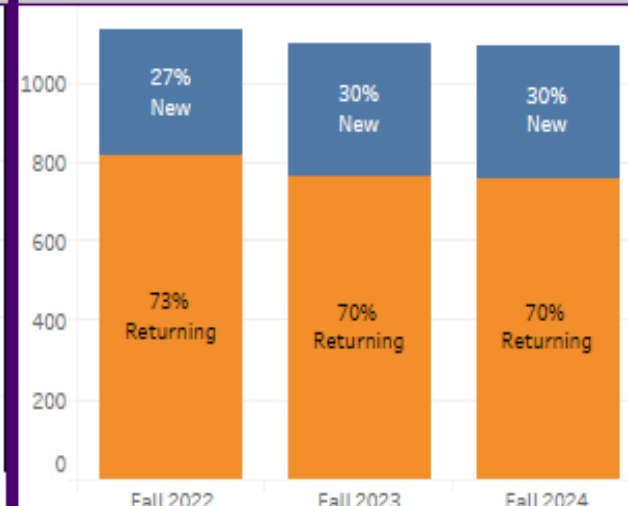
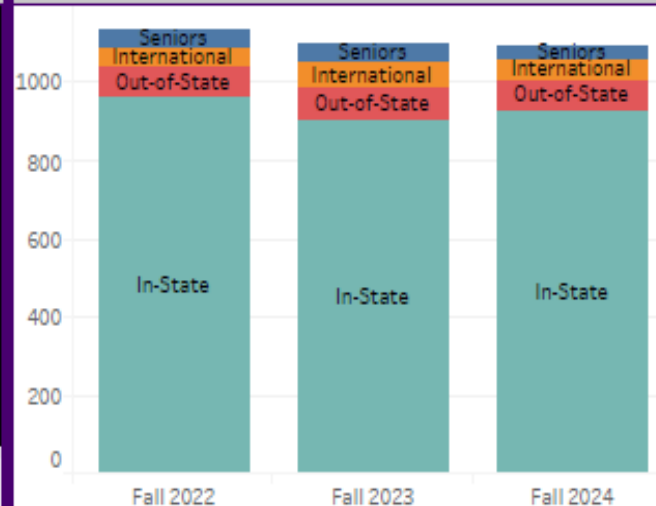
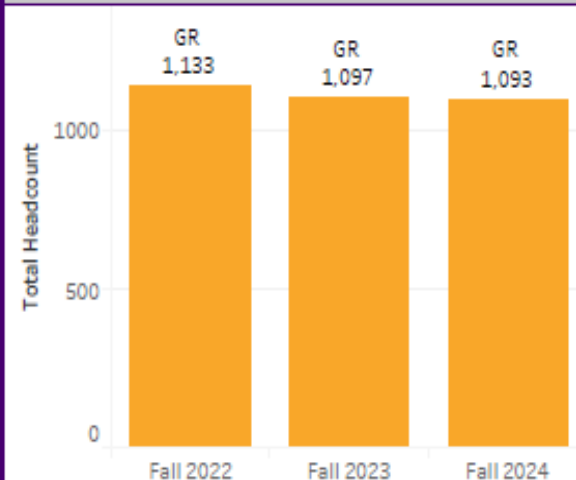
Levl Desc



Student Level

By Residence

Student Type (New/Continuing)



NMHU Enrollment by Campus

College

Demographics

Main Page

Students by Location

Students by Campus & College (Fall 2024)

Location

All

Level

☒ Graduate

☐ Undergraduate

College

A&S

EDU

SOC WK

BUS M&T

None

Campus

Online

Farmington

Albuquerque

Roswell

Santa Fe

Rio Rancho

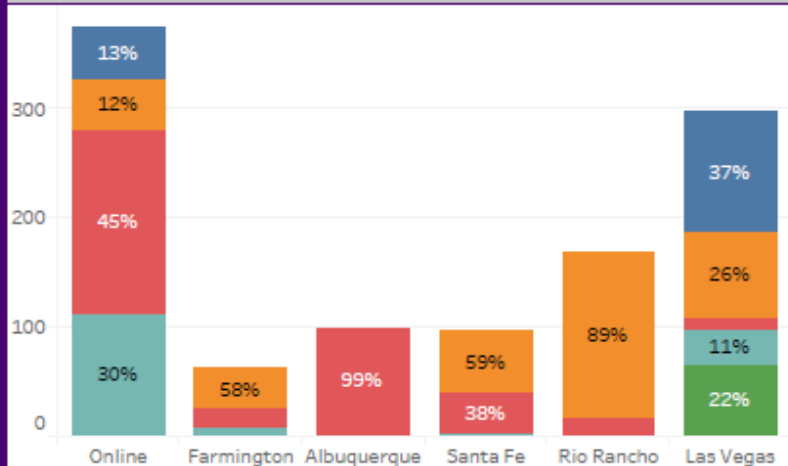
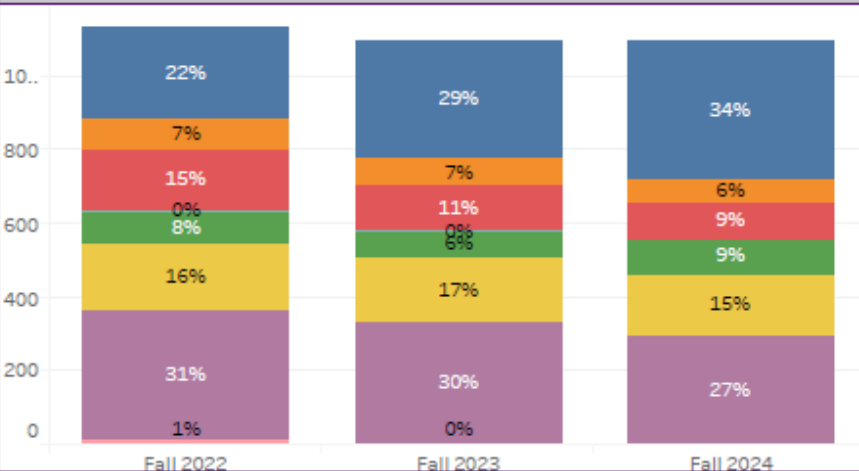
Las Vegas

None

STYP_DESC Short

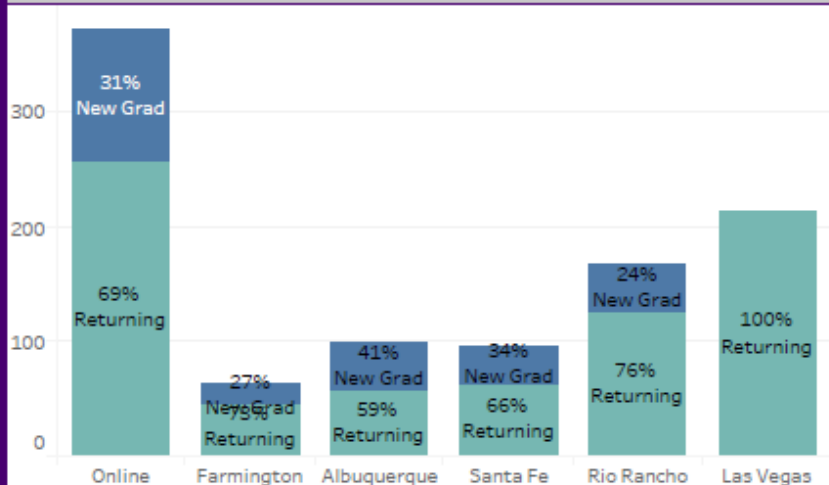
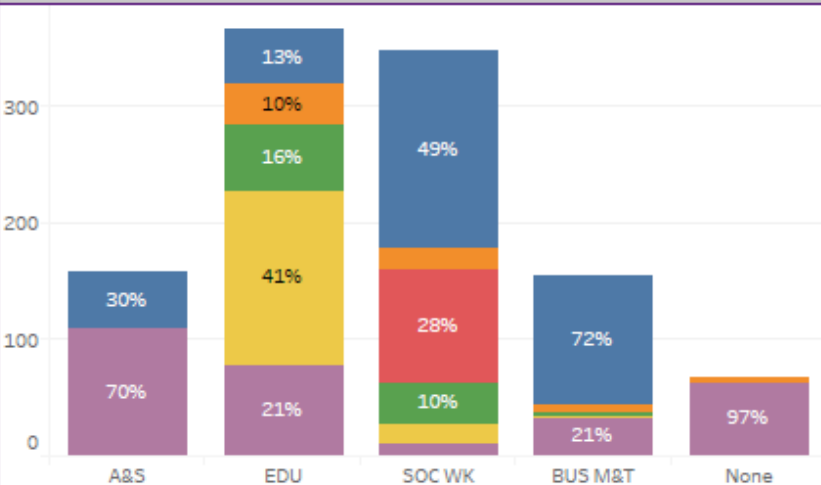
New Grad

Returning



College by Campus (Fall 2024)

Student Type (New/Continuing)



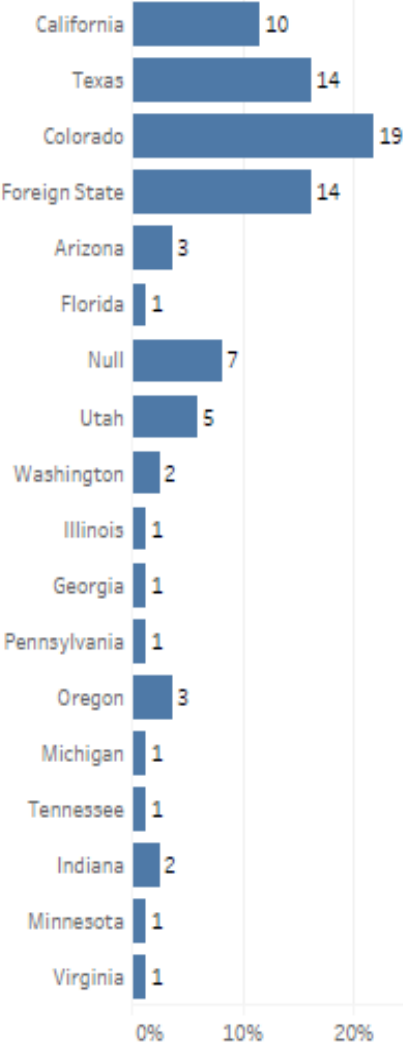
NMHU Student Enrollment

College

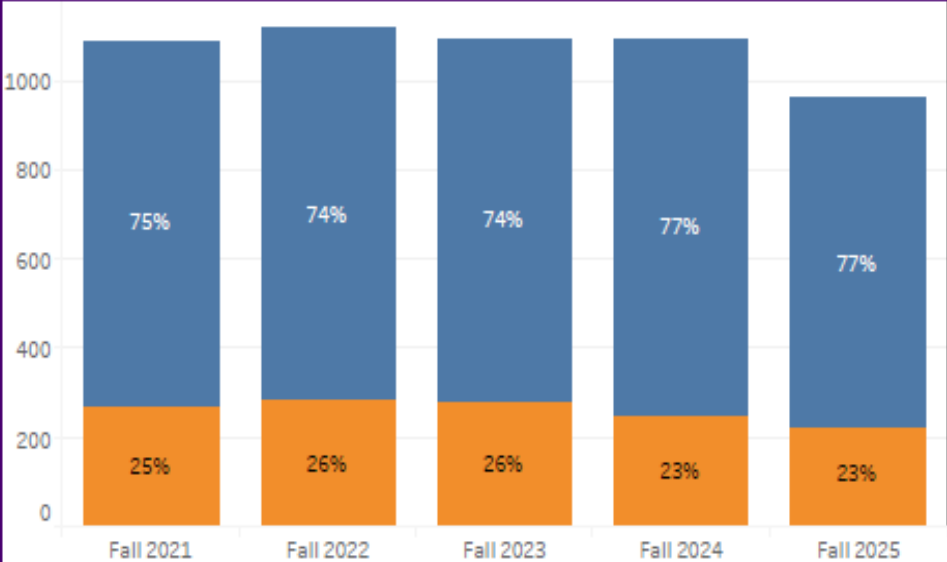
Campus

Demographics

Students by State (Fall 2024)
Excludes NM and <2



Students by Gender



Gender

- F
- M
- N

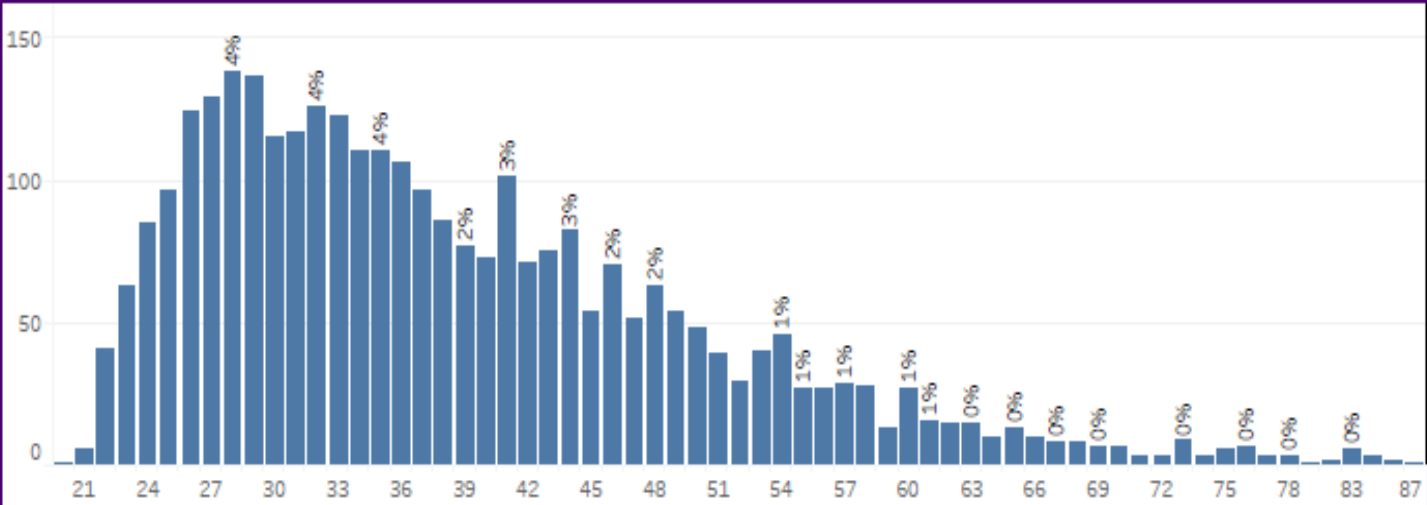
Levl Desc

- ✓ Graduate
- Undergraduate

Levl Desc

- Graduate

Students by Age (Fall 2024)





Excerpted Testimonials of Current Students

Michelle Rascón Ben, Counseling in Education

- My name is Michelle Rascón Ben. I am a first-generation college student and daughter of an immigrant from Mexico. I am pursuing a masters degree in clinical mental health counseling. I always knew I wanted to help people as a young girl, as I was always the caretaker in the family. Counseling fell into my lap as I took psychology classes in undergrad and fell in love with the idea of helping end the stigma surrounding mental health. New Mexico Highlands has the best counseling program in New Mexico in my opinion. Every single professor and staff I've crossed paths with have only furthered my desire and proved my choice of it being the best school. I loved the flexibility as I have a young daughter, and I also work.
- From growing up in a rural community, low-income family, being in foster care, and suffering my own adverse childhood experiences and trauma it led me to resilience. I never was addicted to substances or led down a dark path that so many people that struggle with childhood trauma stay on. My hope in being a future counselor is to continue to work in rural community mental health facilities and help the most underserved people. I hope to set an example of resilience for others while also leaving the door open to meet people where they are free from judgement, with genuineness, empathy, and acceptance. I hope to show my daughter the importance of education, helping others, and ending the cycle of abuse. I am grateful to say NMHU has helped me to continue towards this goal.

Paris Mikem Yambali, Chemistry

- Having a strong background in Biochemistry and a 7 years work experience in a food processing industry back home in Nigeria, it was seamless for me to apply my laboratory and technical skills here at Highlands, also building on already existing skills.
- My choice of New Mexico Highlands University Chemistry Department stem from the collaborative research and paper writing opportunities provided by the Faculties in the department, the Faculty to Student ratio is of the recommended standard. With the small class size, it provides an opportunity for the student to have one-on-one mentorship and guidance. So far, I have been able to make significant progress in my graduate research work and my thesis, I have also been able to acquire skills in the Raman spectrometer, UV-VIS-Spectrophotometer, and the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer.
- This is because the Applied Chemistry program has an exceptional blend of rigorous course work and research, hands on experience in a state-of-the-art laboratory and an experience from performing the GA duties, collaborating with staff and faculty.
- Finally, the Faculties here in the NMHU Chemistry department are passionate about my professional development, attending conferences, presenting and sharing my research experience and make valuable connections with my peers and networking/collaborating with other students and Faculties from other universities.



Iliana Sandoval, Business Administration

My name is Iliana Sandoval, and I am currently pursuing my master's degree in business administration with a focus on Healthcare Administration. I sincerely enjoyed my undergraduate program which focused on Organizational Leadership and felt the need to continue further down the business track. Any organization involves a form of business, so I felt it was extremely important to be a part of a program that prepared me for that reality. I selected my Healthcare Administration concentration because I always had a strong interest in the medical field. The fact that I could continue with my business degree while simultaneously taking part in something that always drew my interest was ideal. I chose New Mexico Highlands University based on a suggestion from my parents (both of whom are NMHU graduates). Hearing about their amazing experiences with the university urged me to apply. The second I sent in my application, I knew it was the right decision for me. The support I felt from the very beginning was just what I envisioned, and I am proud to officially be a part of the Highlands family as both a student and graduate assistant.

Shorter excerpts

- ▶ The high quality and affordability of the program provided me with the skills to become a freelance graphic designer and start a small business shortly after graduating. Additionally, the department's emerging professionals program aided in creating networking opportunities while giving me real-world work experience to build my resume.

Chris Romero, Media Arts and Cultural Technology

- ▶ I have chosen to continue my degree at NMHU due to wanting to be close to home and my family. NMHU also has one of the best counseling programs which made it all that easier to stay. I have chosen to pursue my degree in clinical mental health counseling due to many reasons but two of the main ones are to help others and give back to my community. I am going into my third semester of my master's degree and have loved my program so far!



Mariposa Archuleta, Counseling in Education

- ▶ New Mexico Highlands University's solid academic reputation, diversified community, and encouraging learning atmosphere are the main reasons I decided to enroll there. The university's dedication to student achievement and the exceptional opportunity to develop a global perspective while studying in the US particularly drew me in. I'm now working toward a master's degree in English, concentrating on linguistics, rhetoric, and composition because I think it will give me the information and abilities, I need to have a beneficial influence on my community and the world at large.

Blessing Mary Iloh, English International Student



Trajectories of a Few Alumni



- Where you grew up?
- Where you went to high school, college, M.A. and Ph.D.
- Where you worked after Ph.D. in different jobs?
- Very short statement about what Highlands means to you.

Sebastian Medina



► Where you grew up?

Born in Las Vegas, NM (very close to NMHU campus, i.e., at El Centro Family Clinic) and grew up in Mora, NM.

► Where you went to high school, college, M.A. and Ph.D.

Mora High school; NMHU for undergraduate in Biology and MS graduate coursework in NRM (Natural Sciences, Environmental Science & Management); Ph.D. at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center in Biomedical Sciences with a concentration in toxicology and pharmaceutical sciences

► Where you worked after your last degree in different jobs?

Postdoc at UNM College of Pharmacy (1 year), Assistant Professor of Biology at NMHU (4 years), and now at University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy (current position, 1 year)

► Very short statement about what Highlands means to you.

As a first-generation college student from northern New Mexico, NMHU was more than a place of learning—it was a launching point that shaped my path in science and higher education. I have deep gratitude for the faculty, staff, and mentors who worked tirelessly to create opportunities, foster growth, and ensure student success.

Elizabeth Long



➤ Where you grew up?

Pittsburgh, PA

➤ Where you went to high school, college, M.A. and Ph.D.

High school: Montour High School; BS: University of Pittsburgh; MS: NMHU;
PhD: Virginia Commonwealth University

➤ Where you worked after your last degree in different jobs?

After completing my PhD, I did a 1-year postdoc at VCU at the Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies. Then, I started working with the [Evidence-to-Impact Collaborative](#) at Penn State University, first as a postdoc and now as an Assistant Research Professor (non-tenure line) and Director of Research and Evaluation. I've been working there since 2018.

➤ Very short statement about what Highlands means to you.

During my time at Highlands, I felt supported, challenged, and inspired. The faculty's mentorship and encouragement helped me grow both personally and professionally, and the experience laid a strong foundation for my career. I fondly look back on my time there with gratitude.

Chris Aguilar



➤ Where you grew up?

I grew up in Ribera, New Mexico.

➤ Where you went to high school, college, M.A. and Ph.D.

West Las Vegas High School in Las Vegas, New Mexico. I completed my undergraduate at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) where I obtained a BS in psychology. I attended graduate school at NMHU and obtained a MS in psychology. I also attended graduate school at Southern New Hampshire University where I obtained a MS in Healthcare Administration.

➤ Where you worked after your last degree in different jobs?

Since graduating from NMHU, I have worked as a therapist in corrections, a psychometrist and supervisor at the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute Forensic Division, and currently as the Community Behavioral Health Clinician Northeast Regional Manager for Children's Behavioral Health Services within the Children, Youth, and Families Department.

➤ Very short statement about what Highlands means to you.

NMHU gave me the opportunity to come from a small area and achieve big things. It allowed me to be the first in my family to obtain a college degree and opened the doors for opportunities my family had never dreamed of.

Ashley Branch



➤ Where you grew up?

Taos, NM

➤ Where you went to high school, college, M.A. and Ph.D.

Taos High School; UNM-Taos (first 2 years of undergrad study); NMHU (earned BA in Health/Psychology), NMHU (Master of Science in Clinical Psychology/Counseling)

➤ Where you worked after your last degree in different jobs?

Tri-County Community Services (Taos, NM - worked for one year) Taos Behavioral Health (Taos, NM - worked for seven years - current job)

➤ Very short statement about what Highlands means to you.

Attending NMHU provided me the opportunity to pursue both my academic and athletic goals while forming friendships with students from all walks of life. The lessons I learned from professors and peers were invaluable and have continued to inspire me as I tackle my personal and professional endeavors.

Andrew Garcia



➤ Where you grew up?

I grew up in Ottawa, KS

➤ Where you went to high school, college, M.A. and Ph.D.

I attended Ottawa High School and four higher level institutions. These included the University of Kansas, New Mexico Highlands University, the American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University Northern Virginia, and the Chicago School of Professional Psychology - Washington DC campus.

➤ Where your worked after your last degree in different jobs?

I began my career as the first forensic evaluator in U.S. History for any tribal nation. I provided competency and risk related evaluations for the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Courts. As the only evaluator for the "Nation" I was responsible for the deliverables to the Department of Justice under a grant awarded to the Nation to develop and research forensic programming in response to the McGirt ruling in OK. While at the Nation I served on several committees helping with tribal capacity building as an advisor in forensics, multiculturalism, tribal policy, and clinical programming.

➤ Very short statement about what Highlands means to you.

Highlands represents the preliminary stages of my personal exploration of advanced concepts involved in forensic psychology as well as multiculturally appropriate services among American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Irene Sisneros-Rueda



► Where you grew up?

I grew up in Colonias, which is part of the Anton Chico Land Grant outside of Santa Rosa, NM.

► Where you went to high school, college, M.A. and Ph.D.

High School = Santa Rosa High School Bachelor and Master's = NMHU

► Where you worked after your last degree in different jobs?

I don't have my PhD. After my Master's I worked for a nonprofit providing Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, then worked in an elementary school providing drug prevention presentations and therapy via a 3year grant in Las Vegas, NM. I moved to Denver in 2007 after the grant ended and started working for Denver Public Schools. I have been a school social worker since then, other than this past year, when I worked centrally in DPS as a Student Safety Coordinator. This entailed training other mental health providers how to facilitate threat appraisals, suicide risk reviews and non-suicide self injury protocols in schools. I also consulted on those issues and other safety concerns and developed district training.

► Very short statement about what Highlands means to you.

Highlands holds such a special place in my heart. The degrees (BSW and MSW) that I earned there opened up a new world for me. I am a first-generation college graduate, so earning my college degree was life changing for my future. While at Highlands I created life-long memories and relationships that I value dearly. In a nutshell, Highlands was a time for growth, a place of becoming and an experience that forever shaped me for the better.