



ENMUTM

**Education and
Technology**

NEWSLETTER

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CET NEWSLETTER

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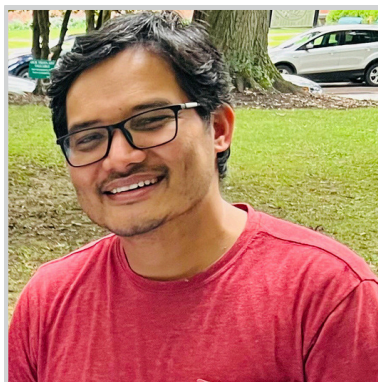
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FROM THE DEAN'S DESK



Dr. B. Lee Hurren

I was excited to see that ENMU's spring break coincided with the spring break at Portales School District, mostly because it meant that I could run with my 13-year-old track athlete son on a daily basis for a week. I continued my routine of daily morning runs and office work, while incorporating an afternoon run/workout with Benjamin. With 89,000 miles on my legs, I worried a little bit about being able to handle two runs per day and recuperate in time for the next. However, each day I felt more energized than the previous day. I also accomplished more work in less time and organized myself more efficiently. It added to my belief that when we do good things we are invigorated to do more good things. You will not tire from doing good works. The more you do, the more you can do.

ENMU ED RISING REACHES NEW HEIGHTS AT STATE CONFERENCE

Eastern New Mexico University's Educators Rising chapter has long had the opportunity to represent the university and encourage high school students to pursue careers in education at the New Mexico Educators Rising Conference. At this conference, high school students participate in several teaching-related competitions, such as Teacher-Created Materials and Job Interview, which are designed to prepare them for the responsibilities and expectations of the teaching profession. Each year, members of our chapter volunteer to serve as judges for these events. This experience not only supports the development of future educators but also allows us, as college students, to reflect on and strengthen our own professional skills and knowledge.



ENMU Educators Rising chapter members with Dr. Matthew Vetterly and Dr. Tracie Campbell

This year marked a significant milestone for the organization. With support from Dr. Christine Reyes, the Educators Rising State Director, collegiate-level competitions were introduced in New Mexico for the first time. ENMU students participated in these events and performed exceptionally well. Several of our members received high scores in their respective competitions, and all will advance to the national competition in Portland, Oregon, this June. In addition to competing, ENMU members facilitated breakout sessions during the conference, each attended by approximately forty-five students. "This year marked the largest number of breakout sessions led by the ENMU chapter since I began attending the state conference," said **Madeline Ferguson**, a senior. Session topics included Math and Mental Health, the Importance of ESL Strategies, Education and Bilingual Education, and the Qualities of Becoming a Special Educator. Each session highlighted the strength of Eastern New Mexico University's educator preparation program and our commitment to preparing future teachers.

WELCOME ABOARD: NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Dawn Wink

Dr. Wink's professional background is based in multilingual education, multiliteracies, linguistic human rights, and ecolinguistics. She has represented teacher education through these lenses in the US and internationally for years, with significant publications. Her current research explores language and literacy through the lenses of wildness, beauty, and imagination, and examines how ecolinguistics and literacy development mutually enrich and strengthen one another. According to Dr. Wink, her first weeks at ENMU have been wonderful! "What a supportive, collaborative, and creative community," said Dr. Wink. A project she is currently preparing is the summer ENMU Language and Literacy Studio, an opportunity for students and teachers to come together to explore the magic and power of reading. Besides language and literacy, Dr. Wink is creative, and she also loves sunrises and sunsets, distance running, dark Italian coffee, flowers, vibrant colors and textures, and the sacred pre-dawn, early-morning magic hours of solitude and sanctuary. The CET family welcomes Dr. Dawn Wink!

ENMU'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM TO GRADUATE ITS FIRST COHORT

The Educational Administration Department is completing the pilot year of its Principal Residency Program for 2025–26. Three residents, **Emily Clark** and **D.A. Kerg** from Clovis Municipal Schools and **Lora Armendariz** from House Municipal Schools, will graduate in May with their degree and certification in Educational Administration. All three residents have demonstrated strong performance in their coursework and are considered "Day One Ready" for future leadership opportunities. Their partner districts have expressed great satisfaction with their growth and performance. The department has also applied for the 2026–27 Principal Residency Grant and expects to learn in April if the requested \$950,010 will be awarded to support ten residents. Partnering districts include Clovis Municipal Schools, Farmington Municipal Schools, Tucumcari Public Schools, Roswell Independent Schools, and Alamogordo Public Schools. Recruitment and interviews for residents and mentor principals will begin in April, with coursework starting in July. The program continues to build a strong pipeline of future school leaders for New Mexico.



*Emily Clark, Lora Armendariz,
and D.A. Kerg*

DR. OGUNLEYE LAUNCHES K-12 AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION OUTREACH



Dr. Anu Ogunleye with students in Dora



Dr. Ogunleye pioneered an outdoor Agricultural Education outreach initiative designed to engage K-12 students within a 15-25-mile radius of Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU), including schools in Dora, Elida, and Floyd. The program was created to introduce young students to the fundamentals of agriculture while strengthening connections between local communities and the agricultural systems that provide their food. The first outreach event was held at Dora Schools, where Dr. Ogunleye, alongside students from her Agricultural Communications course (ACOM 1110), led hands-on demonstrations focused on plant growth, soil health, and basic gardening practices. The primary mission of the outreach is to help students understand where their food comes from and to spark early interest in agriculture, science, and environmental stewardship. During the activity, each participating student received a planting container, soil, seeds, and plant labels. Dr. Ogunleye and the ACOM students demonstrated how to properly plant seeds, care for soil, and label plants. Through this interactive approach, students gained practical knowledge while developing curiosity about agriculture and plant science. The outreach also functioned as a valuable learning laboratory for the ACOM students. It provided them with real-world experience in communicating agricultural knowledge to diverse audiences.

STANDING TOGETHER: CET'S KDP CHAPTER SUPPORTS RUIDOSO RECOVERY

In the fall of 2025, one of our counseling grad students in CET let Kappa Delta Pi know about the aftermath from the floods and fires in Ruidoso the summer before. KDP members jumped in to help Ruidoso Municipal Schools and ENMU-Ruidoso by organizing a food and clothing drive. Elementary students in local schools needed basic clothing, and students at ENMU-Ruidoso asked for nonperishable food. The drive ran for most of the fall semester, and we collected enough to fill both **Dr. Shilling's** and **Dr. Stewart's** SUVs! Right before Christmas, they drove everything down to Ruidoso and dropped it off with our partners at ENMU-Ruidoso.



Dr. Shilling and Dr. Stewart with staff from ENMU-Ruidoso

20+ DISTRICTS, REAL CONNECTIONS: ENMU'S TEACHER JOB FAIR IN ACTION



*CET faculty and staff at the
Teacher Job Fair*

With over 20 districts represented across the region, this year's Teacher Job Fair was a great example of our mission in action. It provided future educators with opportunities to connect with interviewers and employers while showcasing the strength of our teacher preparation programs. Student feedback indicated that the fair provided candidates with valuable information about employment opportunities and meaningful face-to-face time with school leaders from across the region. Many students stated in their exit surveys that the most valuable part of the event was meeting with multiple districts, learning about openings, practicing professional conversations, and making connections that made the transition from college to career feel real. Students also reported feeling confident about their prospects, and many shared that their preparation through ENMU helped them interact effectively with school representatives. The success of this event was measured by positive feedback obtained from students, school partners, and employers who identified potential hires during the fair. Both **Dr. Vetterly** and **Mrs. Lemke** reaffirmed that the Teacher Job Fair reflected the quality of ENMU's educator preparation and the bright future ahead for our students and partner schools. Teacher Education - Simply the Best!

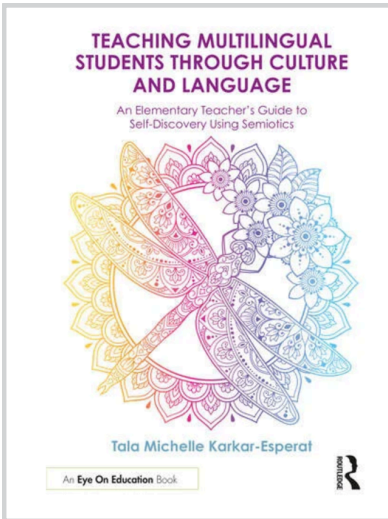
READY FROM DAY ONE: HOW ENMU PREPARED ME FOR TEACHING

"My education at Eastern New Mexico University played a critical role in preparing me for my first year in the classroom at Carlsbad High School. ENMU's SED program emphasized both strong content knowledge and practical teaching strategies, which helped me enter my position with confidence. Because of this preparation, I was able to start this school year with structure and consistency, which have been essential to my early success. That foundation provided by ENMU has already translated into meaningful recognition, including being named December's Teacher of the Month in my first semester, an award voted on by my students. My academy principal has commented on my ability to engage students and create a well-managed classroom. At the same time, my fellow teachers have commended my professionalism and effectiveness so early in my career. All wouldn't be possible without my guidance from the faculty at ENMU!" said **Jayden Lucero**.



Mr. Jayden Lucero

DR. KARKAR-ESPERAT RELEASES NEW PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE



Teaching Multilingual Students Through Culture and Language: An Elementary Teacher's Guide to Self-Discovery Using Semiotics



Dr. Tala Karkar-Esperat celebrating her book release with CET faculty

Dr. Tala Karkar-Esperat's recent publication is a professional development guide designed for elementary preservice and in-service teachers as the primary users, and for home language arts teachers, who are the students' guardians and parents, as the secondary users. The guide centers on students' language and culture by recognizing and harnessing students' assets through semiotics (the study of signs using multiliteracies) and self-discovery. It draws on the applications of Dr. Karkar-Esperat's work: The Raciosemiotic Architecture Framework, the MultiSemiotic Architecture Framework, the Transmultiliteracies Sustaining Pedagogy, and the Pedagogical Holistic Model of New Literacies. The resources enhance relations between families, students, and teachers.

The book guides teachers in becoming compassionate educators by providing strategies and lesson examples that connect with students and support bilingual and multilingual learners. The modules are divided into modality: visual, audio, linguistic, spatial, gestural, and synaesthesia. This guide supports joy, love, compassion, and self-discovery in education, viewing student differences as assets. These are themes highlighted throughout the book.

The lessons in this book foster a love for learning and sharing skills. Educators are guided to facilitate their students' self-discovery, nurturing their growth while advancing their cultural understanding. This guide becomes a handbook to help teachers support students in creating their own learning journeys. Teachers and the student community share the joy of knowledge together through this guide.

You can access the book [here](#) or at routledge.com.

DR. OGUNLEYE JOINS EENM FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Anu Ogunleye was selected as the Environmental Education of New Mexico (EENM) Fellow for the 2025/2026 cohort. EENM is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring equitable access to environmental and outdoor learning for all New Mexico children.

SCHOLARLY SUCCESSES: RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, AND HIGHLIGHTS

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