



**College of Education  
and Technology**

**NEWSLETTER**

**ISSUE 2**  
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# NEWSLETTER

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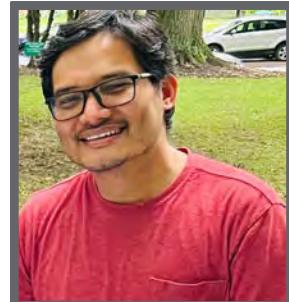
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## CET NEWSLETTER TEAM

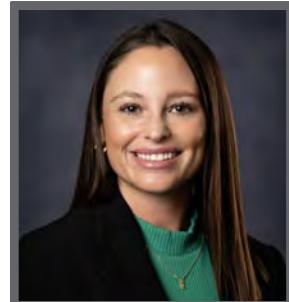
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Studies



# CET NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

As students, faculty, and staff in the College of Education and Technology at ENMU, we all signed on to do hard things. But, by doing hard things we make our own lives, and the lives of those around us, better. The road ahead will not always be a smooth one. Nor will it be easy. But it shouldn't be. "It's your reaction to adversity, not adversity itself, that determines how your life's story will develop" — Dieter F. Uchtdorf. In order for us to grow, strengthen, and to be of service to others, a certain degree of difficulty is essential. I doubt that any of us look forward to obstacles, but nonetheless, they find us. As you embrace life's hurdles as positive opportunities, you will find more joy and success. You've got this. You were born to do hard things.



Dr. Hurren

## BEHIND THE DESK: CELEBRATING OUR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERHERO

**Adriana Renee Delgado** is a native of Portales, New Mexico, and a mother to three amazing children: Andrew (12 years old), A'myah (3 years old), and Aiden (2 years old). She graduated from Portales High School in 2012. Throughout her childhood, she participated in various sports, including softball, basketball, and volleyball, and in her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, hosting cookouts, watching television, watching her son participate in sports, listening to music and dancing. Prior to joining the ENMU CET family, Adriana worked at Portales Pizza Hut as a Restaurant Manager for a decade. She is currently employed as an Administrative Assistant in the Teacher Education Office under the guidance of her supervisor, Kari Lemke, who she described as fabulous and most wonderful.

According to Adriana, she is grateful for the opportunity to work with CET students while assisting them in achieving their academic goals. "Interacting with our students daily is a privilege that I thoroughly enjoy. I am grateful, thankful, and blessed with my current position and I feel fortunate to be part of such a supportive and dedicated team and family (ENMU-CET) where we are all about student success," said Adri.



Adri Delgado

# CET NEWSLETTER

## SPRING INTO KNOWLEDGE: AG 494 GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

**Dr. Anu Ogunleye** premiered the spring guest speaker series for her senior seminar class where she invited guest speakers to speak on a topic of choice from across campus and beyond including Dr. Lee Hurren (Dean-CET), Mrs. Stephanie Johnston (Firstlady-ENMU), Mrs. Kimberly Potters (Mathematics instructor-ENMU), Dr. Kalynn Baldock (Chairman-AFSK), Dr. Kathie Good (Chairman-Department of Education), Mrs. Evelyn Ledbetter (KENW-ENMU), and Dr. Calvin Trostle (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agronomist, Lubbock). The guest speaker's series has had positive reviews from students because they learned life lessons that would come in handy as they journey through life in their chosen career path. Dr. Ogunleye intends to extend invitations to several ENMU staff and faculty members in different departments in subsequent spring semesters so that students can learn from the wealth of diverse experiences and knowledge.



Mrs. Johnston speaking to Dr. Ogunleye's students during one of the seminar series.

## CULTIVATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS: NMPED GRANTS FUNDING FOR PRINCIPAL RESIDENCY PILOT



Dr. Petrone, Dr. Cumby, and Dr. Vetterly

Grant award from NMPED for the FY26 Principal Residency Pilot Grant. The IGA will be sent in the coming weeks and be fully executed by July 1, 2025.

This estimated award amount of \$226,533 provides funding for 3 Principal Residents based on an average cost per resident of \$75,511 for the school year of 2025 - 2026. **Dr. Selenda Cumby, Dr. Matthew Vetterly, and Dr. John Petrone** look forward to this opportunity of developing our future leadership for districts.

# CET NEWSLETTER

## ROOTING FOR SUCCESS: DR. OGUNLEYE CULTIVATES CURIOSITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN PLANT SCIENCE

**Dr. Anu Ogunleye** is inspiring scientific curiosity in her students by introducing research components into her “Introduction to Plant Science-AGRO 1110” class, where she is teaching her students to conduct cutting-edge research that promotes agricultural, and environmental sustainability while encouraging scholarly activities among undergraduates; to improve competence and competitiveness in global markets. This endeavor also has the potential to increase the Department of Agriculture and ENMU’s institutional metrics for student success and encourage them to pursue postgraduate degrees or research careers in STEM thereby contributing to the body of science globally. Dr. Ogunleye designed a deficit irrigation study using chile pepper as the test crop.

Students were involved in experimental design, management, and data collection. Students created scientific posters and presented them individually during midterms. Students also planted different crops of choice and watered them weekly. Dr. Ogunleye’s students enjoyed this teaching strategy which engages outside the classroom. She intends to publish the research findings from this scholarly activity in collaboration with her students. She also plans to donate crops produced towards feeding the children at the CDC through the culinary department while the rest of the produce goes to ENMU students and staff at no cost.



Dr. Ogunleye watering plants



Plants that are currently growing in the greenhouse.



AGRO 1110 students preparing for their research experiment.

# CET NEWSLETTER

## CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF THE SOFO SHARKS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM VISIT

This semester, **Dr. John Petrone**, organized and led the SOFO Sharks Research and Education Program team's visit to Eastern New Mexico University (January 20-25, 2025)! Their impactful presence was an inspiration to students, educators, and the greater Portales community. Here are some highlights of their visit:

- The team captivated well over 300 local high school students from Clovis and Portales high schools, presenting thought-provoking sessions about marine science, shark research, and conservation.
- They engaged over 100 ENMU undergraduate students from the Science and Education programs, sparking meaningful discussions about sustainability and shark research methodologies.
- Their expertise and enthusiasm reached a wider audience through an interview with Ms. Evelyn Ledbetter, host of KENW's "You Should Know."
- The grand finale was their in-person and live-streamed presentation at the Golden Student Success Center, which drew over 150 attendees from both ENMU and the broader community.



Dr. Bradley Peterson



Dr. Tobey Curtis



Mr. Greg Metzger and Dr. John Petrone



Mr. Greg Metzger

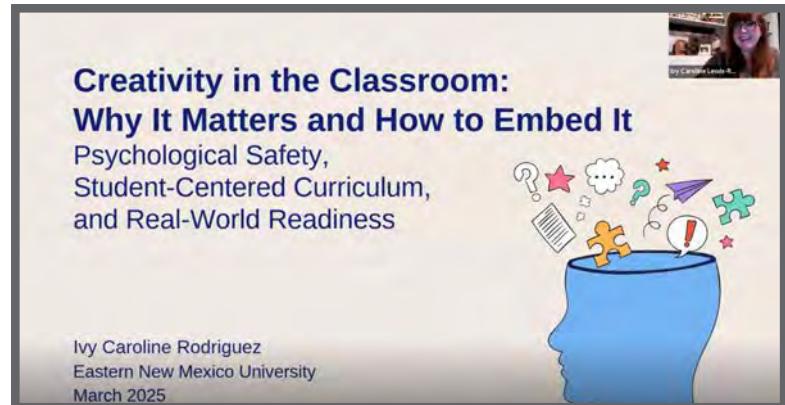
One remarkable measure of success was the exceptional engagement of the audience during each Q&A session. In almost every presentation, the Q&A extended nearly as long as the presentation itself, showcasing the audience's curiosity and critical thinking. This level of participation speaks volumes about the team's ability to connect with diverse audiences.

Dr. Petrone wanted to thank everyone who contributed to making this visit a success, from the initial invitation and financial support of the visit (Dr. Laurenz), coordinating the itinerary to ensure our students had access to these invaluable educational experiences (Melissa Broz). Additionally, many thanks to President Johnston for his overall support of the team's visit. Lastly, a special thanks to the SOFO Sharks team for their energy, dedication, and inspiring work.

# CET NEWSLETTER

## CREATIVITY IN THE CLASSROOM IVY CAROLINE RODRIGUEZ

On March 15th, Ivy had the unique opportunity to present her midterm research to an international audience at the Aksharaa School in Kathmandu, Nepal. An experience she described as thrilling and humbling. She presented *“Creativity in the Classroom: Why It Matters and How to Embed It”* to around 100 participants, including administrators, faculty, and staff who made the experience unforgettable. Ivy’s research focuses on student autonomy and self-driven learning, emphasizing how thoughtful, intentional curriculum design creates space for students to take ownership of their education, encouraging students to become active participants in their learning rather than passive recipients of standardized content. According to Ivy, this experience reinforced the value of collaboration in education—both international and interdisciplinary. “This opportunity reinforced my belief that education thrives amid collaboration, strengthened by the exchange of ideas across cultures and contexts. I left the conference feeling both inspired and energized, grateful for the opportunity to learn as much as I shared,” said Ivy.



## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: DR. KARKAR ESPERAT'S MULTISEMIOTIC ARCHITECTURE FRAMEWORK



Dr. Tala Karkar Esperat

**Dr. Tala Michelle Karkar Esperat** has recently published her teacher education framework entitled the MultiSemiotic Architecture Framework. The tenets of the framework are critical literacy, multiliteracies, trans multiliteracies sustaining pedagogy, new literacies, and translanguaging using semiotics.

This framework has been implemented in multiple settings. For further information, the published article, “Multiliteracies for multilingual learners: the MultiSemiotic Architecture Framework” can be accessed [HERE](#).

# CET NEWSLETTER

## SCHOLARLY SUCCESSES: RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, AND HIGHLIGHTS

**Mercedes D. Chavez**, a recent graduate of the ENMU graduate program, has had a paper published in the *International Education and Cultural Studies* journal. The paper is entitled " Instructional Practices, Strategies and Interventions for Students with Emotional and Behavior Disorders" The paper is online at: <https://doi.org/10.71002/iecs.v5n1p42>

**Dr. John Petrone** along with colleagues **Dr. Matthew Vetterly, Dr. Kathleen Wagner, and Dr. Jayson Esvaniuck** submitted a journal article that was recently accepted for publication in the National Social Science Association Journal entitled "Inspired to Teach." In this article, the authors examine the factors that influence individuals to pursue teaching careers and how current educators inspire students to consider the profession. Utilizing a 35-item Likert-scale survey of 613 K-12 public school teachers across New Mexico, the study explores the relationship between personal inspiration, professional perception, and the active promotion of teaching as a career. The authors highlight the importance of positive role models, meaningful teaching experiences, and intentional recruitment strategies in addressing the ongoing need to attract future educators.

## MAESTRO

**Mentors Assisting Education Students Through Rewarding Opportunities (MAESTRO)** hosted two social gatherings with CET students this semester! We are thrilled to announce that we are growing and offering more opportunities for students to connect and build their communities. Members will be participating in the Eastern in Action event this month. To learn more about us, click the link: <https://my.enmu.edu/group/maestro/home>

CET Students with Dean Hurren, Dr. Rebecca Davis, Mrs. Yetta Massey, Dr. Tala Karkar Esperat, Dr. Johannes Addido, Dr. Mark Viner, and Dr. Tsitsi Nyabando

