Natalia De Jesus, a bilingual Recruiter whose experience at New Mexico Junior College has helped fulfill her personal and educational goals, is leading the crusade to help others in her community find the same success in their lives.

She is definitely the right person for the job. Natalia has spoken—in both Spanish and English—to thousands of students and their parents, whether it’s giving presentations at local organizations, at schools and college fairs throughout New Mexico and Texas, or on Facebook responding to inquiries about NMJC.

According to Dr. Michele Clingman, Dean of Enrollment Management, Natalia is not only extremely intelligent and perceptive, but also ideally suited for reaching the Hispanic community. “Natalia’s personal experience has provided her with multiple perspectives that allow her to connect with a wide range of people. Numerous students and their parents specifically request Natalia because of her unique understanding of their situation. She’s an amazing young woman with the perfect aptitude and heart for helping others achieve. Hers is a voice that our students—Hispanic or English—trust and genuinely connect with.”

This spring, through the assistance and support of KLMA-FM Radio and Hermilo and his son Marco Ojeda (another NMJC graduate), Natalia has begun a monthly radio broadcast in Spanish to help get the word out about the many opportunities NMJC has to offer. Here is her story.

From sunny San Diego, California, to windy Lovington, New Mexico, there were many adjustments I needed to make during my adolescent and teen years, such as new schools, new friends, and a completely new lifestyle. One thing that never changed, however, was my ambition to receive a higher education and succeed in life.

After graduating from Lovington High School, my goal was to attend a four-year institution as far from home as possible. Being a first-generation college student and coming from a traditional Mexican household where the women usually are raised to be housewives, I was unaware of how to obtain that dream. I knew my parents wouldn’t be able to pay for the high tuition, much less the cost of room and board at a university, so I reluctantly decided to take their advice and start at NMJC. A little disappointed that my dream seemed to be stalled, I quickly realized that staying home and attending NMJC would be the best decision I’d ever make.

Along my journey at NMJC, I became a student worker in the Recruiting department, gave birth to my son, and met my future husband, a Puerto Rican baseball player recruited by the NMJC T-Birds. After graduating in the spring of 2007 with an Associate of Arts & Science degree, I began working full-time in the Registrar’s Office. While working full-time at NMJC and raising my son (a full-time job all in its own) I managed to transfer to Eastern New Mexico University (without ever having to leave NMJC) to become, what else?—a full-time student.

My dream was back on track, and thanks to the online and ITV courses taken at NMJC, I graduated from ENMU in Spring 2010 with a Bachelor of Science degree. I then took another step forward and applied for—and was selected to—a Student Recruiter position at NMJC. I started in the summer of 2010.

Today, I’m continuing my higher education dreams right here at NMJC by applying to the University of New Mexico to begin earning my master’s degree through the new University Center located upstairs in Pannell Library here on campus.

I know that the education and great opportunities I’ve discovered at NMJC are the main reasons why I feel so successful and enjoy my position so much as a Recruiter for the college. I am extremely appreciative for the many opportunities for success that NMJC has provided for me, and nowadays, one of my primary goals is to help students with similar backgrounds so that they too are on the right track to a better life. It’s my mission to get the word out that higher education and success are available to everyone. I know it’s true—because I’m fortunate enough to be living the dream.
When Matthew Aubert visits the NMJC campus, he might be mistaken for just another thirty-something student casually working toward a degree. In reality, however, the Texas-born Aubert is intensely focused on his future, and NMJC is playing a crucial role in helping him achieve his goals in life.

Born and raised in Houston, Aubert graduated from high school in San Antonio and joined the Navy in 1989, where he was involved in Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Bosnia, followed by a stint in the Army in 1994. In 1998, Matt started work at Energy Solutions (called Envirocare of Utah at the time), where he traveled throughout the U.S. working at Department of Energy (DOE) sites and power plants, gaining knowledge and experience along the way.

After a two-year hiatus as a Certified Personal Trainer in Atlanta, Georgia, Matt's interest in the nuclear industry brought him full circle, this time to Waste Control Specialists (WCS), where his experience landed him a position as a Senior Radiological Control Technician. Soon afterwards, he was promoted to the position of Radiation Safety Training Instructor, where he soon earned his National Registry of Radiological Protection Technologist certification.

Hearing about NMJC's online nuclear industry training program, Matt promptly signed up and will soon be completing his Associate of Applied Science degree. Matt intends to begin working toward a bachelor's degree, followed by a master's degree, at Thomas Edison College in New Jersey, where a senior-level online nuclear industry-training program is offered.

NMJC was handling scholarships for degrees using Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) funding. This was the perfect opportunity for me, so I took full advantage. The NRC and DOE are both in need of personnel, what with the rapidly growing nuclear industry and so many uses for radioactive material. The fact that baby-boomers are retiring only compounds the problem. So I definitely see NMJC in the "sweet spot" with a bright future! NMJC is in the right place at the right time to offer the AAS degree in Energy Technology. And NMJC's positioning as far as location is a huge benefit. The college is surrounded by DOE, commercial, and private facilities, which all need highly trained personnel.

Both NMJC and WCS are in the right place, and the timing could not be any better. The nuclear industry is thriving and will continue to grow through technological and research development. I'm excited to take part and be a member of both facilities.
Japan and Nuclear Energy: What Went Wrong and Its Impact will be a Special Session at a conference in Hobbs, New Mexico, on April 27. Public health and safety is now an issue for the agenda.

Dr. Van Romero, Professor of Physics and Vice President of Research and Economic Development at New Mexico Tech, will make the presentation. Previous to his academic position, Romero worked 12 years in the nuclear reactor industry.

Tim Beville, Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, will join Romero in the Special Session which will begin at 8:00 A.M. on April 28. Beville will present how the accident in Japan will affect U.S. nuclear energy policy and programs.

This will be the first conference program outside Washington to feature the event in Japan and its impact on nuclear energy in the United States. It takes place in the energy corridor of southeast New Mexico with capital investment in uranium enrichment and waste/storage and with uranium tailing recovery potential. Small Modular Reactor technology will be presented as a new and innovative technology choice for development.

Both speakers will present projections on the future of nuclear energy in the U.S. Southwest--also a conference first.

The Special Session is part of a planned two-day conference organized by the New Mexico Center for Energy Policy beginning the morning of April 27.

For additional information and online registration, please view the following sites www.energyplexnm.com or by calling (575) 397-2039. Conference information can be accessed at the New Mexico Center for Energy Policy website www.nncep.nmt.edu.

Uranium Fuel Cycle 2011 • April 27-28 • Hobbs, NM


The Uranium Fuel Cycle Conference 2011 does not focus on 40-year-old plants and technology. It brings the latest in technology together to illustrate the safe and effective use of nuclear energy in today’s world.

The panels will be discussing the latest ready to deploy systems that answer the questions raised about the safety and effectiveness of tomorrow’s source of energy.


Former New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici, a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future, a panel formed by the U.S. Department of Energy in 2009, will also speak.
NMJC Student Support Services (SSS) program participants traveled to Austin the weekend of April 1 for university campus tours and a performance of *West Side Story*. On the way to Austin, students were treated to lunch at Angelo State University, along with a campus tour and a comprehensive presentation on transferring to ASU after graduating from NMJC. One of the most important goals for federally funded SSS programs is to facilitate university transfers for students into bachelor degree programs. This past year NMJC's SSS program had a graduation rate of 87%, with 81% of those students transferring to various universities to complete their bachelor degrees. SSS students are given an opportunity each semester to tour a four-year campus, which helps them make decisions on where they would like to transfer. In Austin, the students were able to tour the University of Texas campus and attend a cultural performance at Bass Theater, also located on the UT campus. SSS trips also give students an opportunity to get more acquainted with peers and SSS staff, which helps to create a solid support system as students pursue their higher education goals.

The group is ready to dine at one of Austin's fine Italian restaurants before attending a performance of *West Side Story*.

**Summer & Fall Registration is in Progress**

**Summer classes**
- May 23 - June 15: Three-week MayMester session
- May 31 - June 30: First five-week session
- May 31 - July 21: Eight-week Internet session
- July 5 - Aug. 4: Second five-week session
- July 25 - Aug. 12: Three-week AugustMester session

**Fall classes**
- Aug. 22 - Oct. 13: First eight-week session
- Aug. 22 - Dec. 9: Full term sixteen-week session
- Oct. 17 - Dec. 9: Second eight-week session
- Dec. 8 - Jan. 6: Four-week Winter break session

Register online through the T-BirdWeb Portal at www.nmjc.edu, in person, or call (575) 492-2577.
NMJC Hosts Car Show during 2011 Automotive Competition

On March 3, NMJC welcomed 57 high school students who competed in the 2011 Automotive Service Technology Invitational Competition. The students represented New Mexico schools from Artesia, Carlsbad, Dexter, Hobbs, Lovington, Magdalena, and Silver City. Texas schools from Denver City, Frenship, Lubbock, Seminole, and Shallowater, as well as Castle Dale, Utah, were also represented.

New Mexico Junior College has implemented a new enrollment process. Students who enroll for summer and/or fall classes will have **48 hours to pay their bill or set up a payment plan.** Registration is now underway.

For your convenience, NMJC offers several payment options:
- In person by check, money order, cash or credit card (American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or Visa) at the cashier's window, Ben Alexander Student Learning Center. Hours 8 AM – 5 PM Monday – Friday.
- Pay by phone with credit card. Call (575) 392-5207.
- FACTS automatic payment plan. There is a non-refundable enrollment fee of $25 to use the monthly payment plan each semester unless students have pending financial aid. There is no interest. Tuition, fees, textbooks, and room and board may be applied to the plan. This service is available at nmjc.edu.

CDL Program Completes Audit
by Jeff McCool, Dean of Training & Outreach

The NMJC Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Program successfully completed a Third Party Tester Audit recently, with the State of New Mexico CDL Manager Theresa Clayton. The audit was completed with no findings, and the audit summary included the following statement; “New Mexico Junior College maintains an excellent filing system for the documents required by the Third Party Tester Agreement.”

Congratulations to Randy Cook and the NMJC Transportation Department staff for continually being recognized as one of the best in the state.

KOB-TV from Albuquerque filmed two Good Day New Mexico segments on campus recently featuring our new Energy Technology program in the Training and Outreach Facility, along with the Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame. To view the segment on Energy Technology, go to: http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S201627.shtml?cat=0

The Western Heritage Museum segment can be found at: http://www.KOB.com/article/stories/S2027286.shtml?cat=0

And the Winners are . . .

**First Place - Post 80**
Rick Allison - Brownfield, Texas

**First Place - Pre 80 - 1967 Camero**
Norris Manney - Hobbs, New Mexico

**Best of Show - 2007 Roush Ford**
Caleb Allison - Lubbock, Texas

New Mexico Junior College does not discriminate in its educational and employment policies and procedures with regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.
Thunderbird Rodeo Team
by Richard Morris, Assistant Rodeo Coach / Professor of PE

Western Texas College Rodeo
Sophomore C.D. Wilcox from Louisa, Virginia, finished 5th in calf roping with a time of 8.9 seconds in the long-go, but had a “no time” in the short-go. C.D. (header) teamed with fellow Virginian freshman Kelly Beahm (heeler) in team roping to place 5th in the long-go with a time of 6.5 seconds, but the NMJC duo missed their steer in the short-go.

NMJC freshman Brittany Herring (header) from Artesia, New Mexico, partnered up with Cooper Jensen (heeler) from Odessa College to place 8th in the team roping long-go with a time of 7.4 seconds, and the team finished 6th in the short-go with a time of 24.9 seconds and 6th in the average.

NMJC freshman bull rider Brent Tsosie from Kirtland, New Mexico, split 2/3 in the long-go with a score of 75 points but was bucked off in the short-go. There was only one ride that scored in the short-go, which allowed Brent third in the average.

NMJC Freshmen Win Odessa College Rodeo Titles
At the Odessa College Rodeo, in breakaway roping, Brittany Herring from Artesia, New Mexico, roped her first calf in 2.5 second, splitting 3rd and 4th in the long-go round. In the short-go round, she roped her calf in 2.2 seconds, making her the fastest run of the weekend, claiming the average title with 4.7 seconds on 2 head.

In team roping, Brittany (header) teamed up with OC’s Cooper Jensen (heeler) with a 7.7 second run in the long-go, placing 8th, but received a “no time” in the short-go.

The Odessa College Bull Riding title went to freshman bull rider Brent Tsosie from Kirtland, New Mexico, when he split 3rd and 4th in the long-go, scoring 78 points. Brent came back to claim the Bull Riding title with the score of 83 points in the short-go. NMJC freshman Jesse Johnston from Winnipeg, Canada, scored 73 points on his bull in the long-go, but was bucked off in the short-go.

Mu Alpha Theta Initiation
by Shyla McGill, Professor of Mathematics
Mu Alpha Theta, the Mathematics Honor Society at New Mexico Junior College, held their initiation on March 15, 2011. Six new members joined the club: Logan Harkey, Dipendra Humagain, Aibek Kurmanov, Katie Shed, Abigail Stringfellow, and Andrei Tofan. The initiation ceremony was presided over by the club president, Jhovanna Hernandez, and the faculty sponsor Shyla McGill. Punch and cookies were served after the ceremony.

CONGRATULATIONS, NMJC GOLF TEAM!

On April 14, the NMJC Golf team won the Region V, District II Championship in Abilene, Texas. This automatically qualifies them for nationals! Great job, Coach Black, and the NMJC Golf team!
GOOD FRIDAY (Campus closed)
April 22

NMJC COMMUNITY BAND SHOW TUNES CONCERT
April 24 @ 3 pm
Watson Hall Auditorium
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong, (575) 492-2844, yswong@nmjc.edu

NMJC ATHLETIC BANQUET
April 26 @ 6 pm
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Cafeteria
Contact: Don Worth, (575) 492-2741, dworth@nmjc.edu

CASINO NIGHT (NMJC student activity)
April 27 @ 7 pm - 10 pm
Caster Activity Center
Contact: DeMond Thomas, (575) 492-2580, dthomas@nmjc.edu

COMMUNITY CHORALE CONCERT
April 28 @ 7 pm
Watson Hall Auditorium
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong, (575) 492-2844, yswong@nmjc.edu

THUNDERBIRD BASEBALL vs Luna Community College
April 29 @ 1 pm
Ray Birmingham Thunderbird Baseball Field
Contact: Josh Simpson, (575) 492-2753, jsimpson@nmjc.edu

THUNDERBIRD BASEBALL vs Luna Community College
April 30 @ 1 pm
Ray Birmingham Thunderbird Baseball Field
Contact: Josh Simpson, (575) 492-2753, jsimpson@nmjc.edu

COMMUNITY CHORALE CONCERT
May 1 @ 7 pm
Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lovington, New Mexico
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong, (575) 492-2844, yswong@nmjc.edu

PREHISTORIC BEASTS OF THE ICE AGE
Ends May 1!
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: Sherry Rascon, (575) 392-6730, srascon@nmjc.edu

NMJC MUSIC STUDENTS’ RECITAL
May 2 @ 7 pm
Watson Hall Auditorium
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong, (575) 492-2844, yswong@nmjc.edu

MASSAGE, SPA, & RELAXATION DAY (NMJC student activity)
May 4 @ 9 am - 9 pm
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Theatre Room
Contact: DeMond Thomas, (575) 492-2580, dthomas@nmjc.edu

MIDNIGHT OIL STUDY SESSIONS (NMJC student & faculty activity)
May 4 & May 5 @ 7 pm - 12 am
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Cafeteria
Contact: DeMond Thomas, (575) 492-2580, dthomas@nmjc.edu

CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION
May 5 @ 12 noon
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Cafeteria
Contact: DeMond Thomas, (575) 492-2580, dthomas@nmjc.edu

COSMETOLOGY PINNING CEREMONY
May 7 @ 2 pm
Watson Hall Auditorium
Contact: Maria Vick, (575) 492-2850, mvick@nmjc.edu

RN PINNING CEREMONY
May 12 @ 7 - 8:30 pm
Watson Hall Auditorium
Contact: Delores Thompson, (575) 492-2519, dthompson@nmjc.edu

NMJC COMMENCEMENT
May 13 @ 7 pm
Lea County Event Center
Contact: Dr. Michele Clingman, (575) 492-2575, mclingman@nmjc.edu

HOBBS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ART EXHIBIT
May 14
Western Heritage Museum & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: Mary Lyle, (575) 492-2679, mlyle@nmjc.edu

ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION & EXHIBIT
May 19
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: Mary Lyle, (575) 492-2679, mlyle@nmjc.edu

OPEN HOUSE & DEDICATION CEREMONY
May 19 @ 4 pm
Caster Activity Center
Contact: Vicki Vardeman, (575) 492-2781, vvardeman@nmjc.edu

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP w/ROSE DIAZ
May 21 @ 9 am - 4 pm
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: Mary Lyle, (575) 492-2679, mlyle@nmjc.edu

BOY SCOUTS OVERNIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
May 26
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: Mary Lyle, (575) 492-2679, mlyle@nmjc.edu
New Mexico Junior College will be celebrating the Open House & Dedication of the

Dan Berry Rodeo Arena
Booster Club Room
Don Bratton Energy Technology Center
C.M. Burk University Center
Caster Center Annex
Central Plant
Larry Hanna Training & Outreach Center
Glen & Rosemary Houston Thunderbird Hall
Carroll Leavell Student Apartments
Larry Milberger Historic Derrick
Pannell Library
Harold Runnels Hall
John Watson Student Apartments

Invitation to follow.