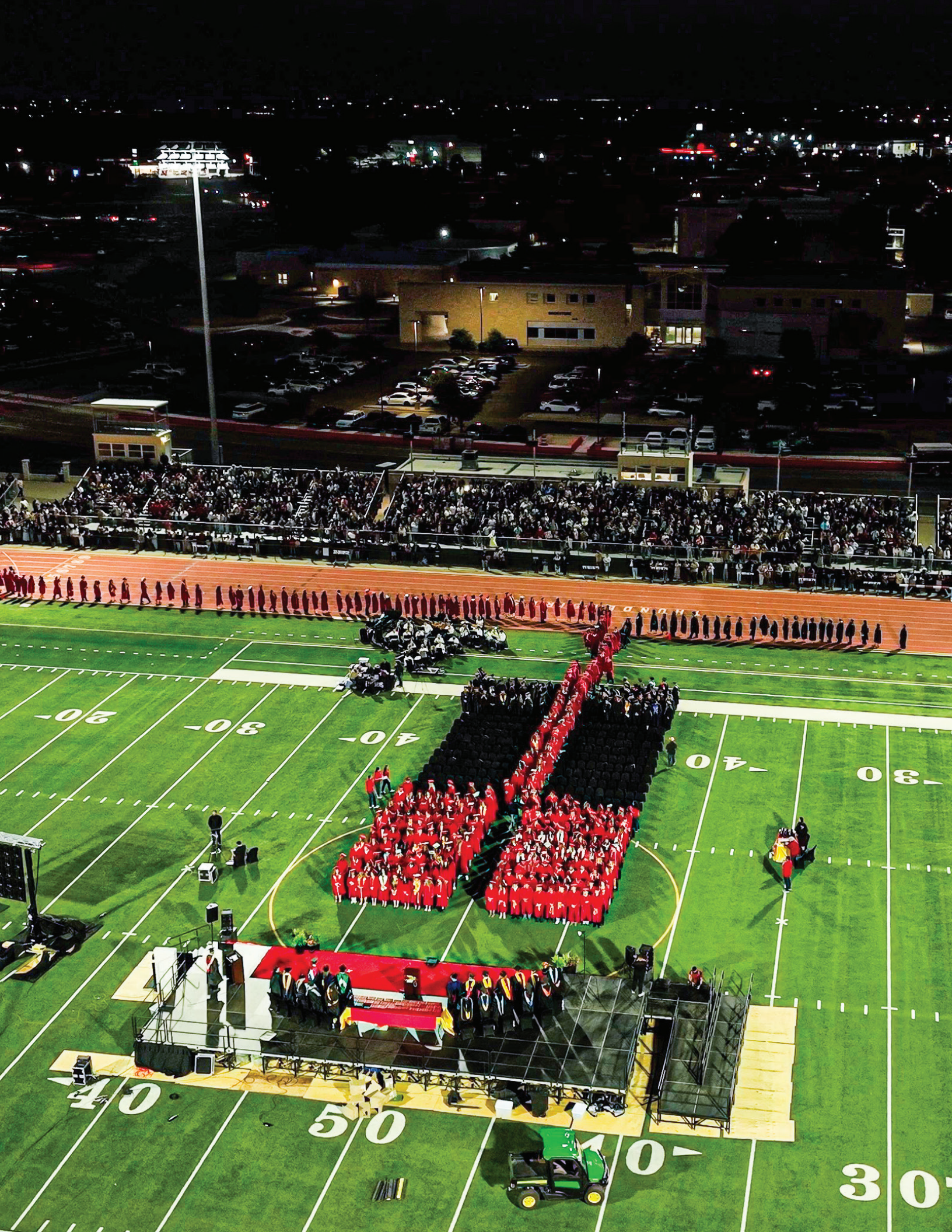






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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2024-2025, I am filled with a deep sense of pride and excitement as I share the many milestones we have achieved together at New Mexico Junior College (NMJC). This year has been one of tremendous growth, community connection, and celebration. We have witnessed exciting new events, impressive academic progress, and an undeniable upward trend in enrollment rates.

One of the standout moments this year was our inaugural Welcome Weekend, a two-day celebration that welcomed alumni, friends, and families back to NMJC. It was an event designed to foster a greater sense of community and pride in our institution, and it did just that. From the youth sports camps to NMJC Athletics games, the weekend was filled with energy and excitement. The highlight of the event was a special concert featuring NMJC alum Aaron Watson, whose performance brought everyone together to celebrate our rich history and vibrant future. This event re-established the official homecoming celebration in the fall for years to come.

In addition to this exciting event, we are also celebrating a year of tremendous growth. Our Fall enrollment saw an increase of nearly 5% compared to the previous year, and our Spring enrollment grew by another 4%. Perhaps most notably, our full-time enrollment saw a significant increase—up 8% in the Fall and more than 12% in the Spring. These numbers reflect the hard work of our dedicated faculty and staff, who are committed to helping students succeed and achieve their dreams.

The increase in enrollment is not just a statistic—it is a reflection of the value and impact of the education we offer. Our students are choosing NMJC because of the quality of education, the supportive environment, and the opportunities for growth that we provide. This upward trend in all categories is a testament to the strength of our programs and the dedication of our faculty and staff.

As we move forward, we are more committed than ever to providing exceptional educational experiences that empower our students and prepare them for success. The future of NMJC is bright, and I am excited to see how we continue to grow and evolve as an institution. Together, we will continue to build on this momentum and help our students reach new heights.

Thank you for your continued support, and here's to another year of success and achievement at New Mexico Junior College!

Warm regards,

Cathy Mitchell,
Interim President, New Mexico Junior College





Academic Success

04



ACADEMIC SUCCESS

New Mexico Junior College remains committed to student success through a variety of holistic support services. Every full-time degree- or certificate-seeking student is assigned an Academic Success Coach, who provides guidance from admission through transfer, assisting with academic planning, career exploration, skills development, and campus resource connections. The Thunderbird Pantry, managed by the Resource Coordinator, supports students and staff by offering nutritious food, hygiene products, and referrals to community resources. In addition, the Academic Success Center offers free tutoring in a wide range of subjects, workshops to strengthen academic skills, and access to technology through rentals of computers, calculators, and cameras—ensuring NMJC students have the tools and support needed to thrive.

NMJC GENERAL
ENROLLMENT IS 
UP 8%

Academics

06

ACADEMICS

New Mexico Junior College's Academic Master Plan 2024–2030 sets a dynamic course for advancing student success and aligning education with workforce needs. Developed collaboratively with faculty, staff, students, and community partners, the plan focuses on five core goals: offering relevant programs that prepare students for global opportunities, strengthening partnerships with student services to support success, fostering a collaborative campus culture, enhancing student learning through intentional strategies, and expanding opportunities through technology. With measurable benchmarks such as increasing completion rates and student satisfaction, the plan is designed to be flexible and responsive to changing educational and workforce demands. By prioritizing innovation, collaboration, and excellence, NMJC ensures its mission of promoting success through learning continues to thrive.

SINCE OPENING ITS DOORS,
NMJC HAS SERVED

84,239 Students

OVER SIX DECADES.



ATHLETICS

In 2024–25, NMJC Athletics delivered another standout year with national runner-up and top-five finishes across multiple sports, producing over 50 All-Americans and several national champions. Milestones included women's basketball reaching a No. 1 national ranking, track & field earning nearly 60 All-American honors, and both golf programs finishing among the nation's best.



NMJC ATHLETICS 2024–25 HIGHLIGHTS

Volleyball

- 4th straight Regional Tournament appearance
- Record: 18–15 (7–7 WJCAC)

Cross Country & Half Marathon

Men

- 7th at NJCAA Nationals
- 4th at Half Marathon Nationals

Women

- 3rd at NJCAA Nationals
- Runner-up at Half Marathon Nationals

Highlight:

- Ines Mrabet – 3rd place individual

Track & Field

Men's Indoor

- National Runner-Up
- 14 All-Americans
- 5 Champions
- 1 Relay All-American

Men's Outdoor

- National Runner-Up
- 15 All-Americans
- 3 Champions
- 1 Relay Champion
- 2 Relay All-Americans

Women's Indoor

- 3rd Place
- 16 All-Americans
- 2 Champions
- 1 Relay Champion
- 2 Relay All-Americans

Women's Outdoor

- 3rd Place
- 14 All-Americans
- 2 Champions
- 2 Relay All-Americans

Basketball

Men

- Most wins since 2014
- Region V Tournament qualifier
- Record: 24–7

Women

- 10th WJCAC Title
- Ranked #1 nationally for first time
- NJCAA Quarterfinalist
- Record: 30–4

Awards:

- Coach of the Year - Austin Mefford
- WBCA Player of the Year - Cacia Antonio
- WJCAC Player of the Year - Pania Davis

Baseball

- 40+ Wins for 6th straight season
- 3rd in WJCAC

Standouts:

- Brayan Orrantia (12 Wins, 2nd NJCAA)
- Julius Ramirez (26 HR, 102 RBI – 2nd NJCAA)

GOLF

Men

- Ranked #4
- 5th at Nationals
- 5th straight top-5 finish
- 1 Team Win, 3 Individual Wins

Women

- Ranked #5
- 4th at Nationals (Best Ever)
- 4 Team Wins, 4 Individual Wins

RODEO

Men

- San Antonio Bull Riding Semifinalist - Jake Dunham
- 2 Team Roping Champions
- NIRA College Finals Qualifiers - Lyvan Gonzalez & Cason Hatley

Women

- Largest team in a decade
- Multiple Short Round qualifiers



Construction

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CONSTRUCTION

In 2024–25, New Mexico Junior College advanced several major campus improvement projects to support student learning and community engagement. The remodel of Watson Hall Performing Arts is complete, with sound and lighting upgrades scheduled. Safety and security enhancements across campus are finished, while the Workforce Development Industrial Training Center was completed in July 2025. Additional completed projects include new lighting at Ray Birmingham Baseball Field, security fencing, a new hay barn, and the Literacy Alliance Testing Center. Ongoing efforts include Phase One of site improvements, new horse stalls and dorm flooring upgrades, and the Heidel Hall remodel (completion July 2026), with future upgrades planned for Mansur Hall, Mary Hagelstein, and the John Shepherd Building. These investments reflect NMJC's commitment to modern facilities that enrich the student experience and strengthen the campus community.



Western Heritage Museum

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COMMEMORATING 80 YEARS SINCE WORLD WAR II AND THE MANHATTAN PROJECT

In 2025, the Western Heritage Museum and Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame presented a special exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Developed entirely in-house, the exhibition explored the Manhattan Project and its profound connection to New Mexico, framing the story within the broader context of the Great Depression, World War II, and their effects on Southeastern New Mexico.

With sensitivity and balance, the exhibit invited visitors to reflect on one of history's most complex and consequential moments, encouraging them to form their own perspectives on the scientific, ethical, and human dimensions of the atomic age.

The exhibition attracted 8,346 visitors, demonstrating strong public engagement and reinforcing the Museum's mission to illuminate global history through a regional lens.

WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM

In 2024-2025, the Western Heritage Museum and Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame welcomed 8,384 visitors, offering a rich mix of educational and family-focused experiences. The museum featured Under Pressure: An Exploration of Oil and Gas in the Permian Basin, which examined petroleum's history and impact on Lea County and highlighted local innovations such as J.E. Bowden's Satellite Automatic Driller. For the holiday season, the museum reintroduced the synthetic ice rink, attracting nearly 3,000 skaters, including many NMJC students. The museum hosted 80 public programs, 10 field trips with 469 students, and 31 rentals for community events. The museum continued to engage the community with innovative exhibits, family activities, and hands-on learning opportunities.





STUDENT LIFE

In 2024–25, NMJC Student Life offered a dynamic and inclusive calendar of events designed to engage students socially, culturally, and educationally. Programming ranged from cultural celebrations and awareness initiatives—such as World Autism Awareness Day and a campus suicide prevention walk—to interactive and recreational activities like silent dance parties, Paint & Sip, Mario Kart tournaments, and campus-wide trick-or-treat. Additional highlights included CORE Bash, International Appreciation Week, Earth Day activities, and finals week de-stress events. These efforts fostered community spirit, promoted multicultural understanding, and provided students with meaningful opportunities for connection and personal growth throughout the academic year.

Workforce Development

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

In 2024–25, NMJC Workforce Development reached record levels, training nearly 4,000 students and delivering over 90,000 hours of instruction across a variety of programs. With expanded offerings in automation, industrial systems, healthcare, transportation, and credit-bearing programs, the division strengthened industry partnerships, awarded \$473,000 in scholarships, and celebrated the opening of the new 25,000-square-foot Industrial Training Center. These accomplishments position NMJC as a leading regional hub for workforce preparation.

4,000

STUDENTS TRAINED
ACROSS NON-CREDIT
PROGRAMS

90,000+

TRAINING HOUR

Record Revenue

HIGHEST IN 18-YEAR HISTORY

300%

INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT
IN AUTOMATION &
INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS

\$473,000

IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED;
ACTIVE ADVISORY BOARDS;
INDUSTRY EQUIPMENT AND
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

New Initiatives & Facilities

"BARBER BATTLE," GENERAL
AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM, AND
25,000 SQ. FT. INDUSTRIAL
TRAINING CENTER



NSEP: Dissection, Sharks, and Discovery

NSEP: DISSECTION, SHARKS, AND SUMMER DISCOVERY

NMJC'S PREMIER YOUTH STEAM ENRICHMENT PROGRAM INSPIRES FUTURE INNOVATORS

This summer, the New Mexico Junior College STEAM Enrichment Program (NSEP) continued to make science an adventure. Now in its fourth year, NSEP offered high school students an immersive, week-long residential experience combining science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. Participants lived in NMJC housing, dined on campus, and gained hands-on experience in labs and classrooms—mirroring the college experience.

One of this year's highlights included shark dissections, expanding students' exploration of biology and anatomy. "Students dove into biology, technology, and art with both curiosity and courage," said Valerie Onsurez Gauna, Director of Outreach and Engagement and NSEP Founder. "We're thrilled to offer them tools to explore, create, and innovate."

Workshops in forensic science, coding, and game design gave participants a glimpse of potential career paths. Each student completing the program received a \$500 NMJC scholarship, reinforcing the College's commitment to supporting academic growth and accessibility.

EXPANDING ACCESS: NSEP MINIS

To reach younger learners, NMJC introduced NSEP Minis, one- and two-day camps for ages 6–8 and 9–12. Led by NMJC faculty and Western Heritage Museum staff, these sessions encouraged early engagement with STEAM concepts through fun, age-appropriate projects.

"These mini camps plant the seed of curiosity," said Rachel Gallagher, Vice President for Advancement. "They help children see themselves as future scientists, creators, and problem-solvers."

From shark dissections to coding challenges, NSEP and NSEP Minis continue to embody NMJC's mission: making education exciting, inclusive, and transformative for learners of all ages.





NMJC FOUNDATION

The NMJC Foundation continues to advance student success through scholarships, program support, and community engagement. For 2024–2025, the Foundation awarded nearly 350 scholarships, contributing to a legacy of \$4 million in scholarships, \$2 million in program assistance, and \$580,000 in work-study support since its founding.

The Annual Scholarship Reception, held March 4, drew a record 400 guests and raised more than \$23,000. The event honored donors and community partners. A special awards ceremony recognized the following outstanding individuals and organizations:

TANYA CASE

Legacy Award: Honoring alumni who exemplify the spirit and excellence of NMJC. Tanya is a retired health plan executive and NMJC alumna.

MERCHANT LIVESTOCK COMPANY

President's Circle Award: Acknowledging significant contributions from the business community. The award was accepted by Tommy and Clabe Pearson.

RICHARD FIAHLO

Foundation Builders Award: Celebrating individuals, families, or friends whose financial support has positively impacted NMJC. Richard Fiahlo is a Chevron employee and NMJC Alum.

DAVID PYEATT

1965 Circle of Excellence Award: Recognizing loyal alumni, parents, and friends who have consistently supported NMJC over time. David Pyeatt, owner of Pyeatt Investments, is a long-time supporter and former NMJC Foundation Board Member.



During the awards presentation, Jimmy Lozano, Chevron Operations Superintendent and Beverly Allen, Chevron Government Affairs, presented a \$30,000 donation to the NMJC Foundation. This follows a prior \$60,000 gift from Chevron earlier in 2024, bringing their total support this year to \$90,000.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by the Fearless Touring Ensemble—Jay Suenos, Jose Ramirez, Kaely Parra, and Gabriel Carreon—from NMJC’s Entertainment and Music Technology Program. Other EMT students and faculty managed lighting, sound, and visual production for the event.

Videos featuring all award recipients are available on the NMJC Foundation webpage at www.nmjc.edu/give.

The 25th Annual Foundation Golf Tournament at Rockwind Community Links brought together 100 golfers and 48 sponsors, raising over \$65,000 for NMJC students and programs.



LEA COUNTY STATE BANK SPONSORS NEW SCHOLARSHIP

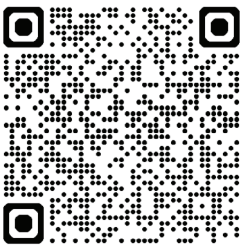
In December 2024, the Foundation was humbled to work with Lea County State Bank President Josh Grassham to create a new scholarship for NMJC students. The scholarship provides \$3,000 in funding to award up to two students to a minimum of \$1,500 a year, or one student at \$3,000 a year to attend an NMJC Workforce Development Training/Certificate program or a for-credit, degree program.

URENCO USA DONATES \$100,000 TO HELP NMJC
RELAUNCH NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Urenco USA (UUSA), a leading provider of uranium enrichment services in North America, donated \$100,000 to the NMJC Foundation to support the relaunch of the Nuclear Energy Technology Program. The donation, which was presented to the Foundation in June, is the first installment of four, over the next four years. This investment marks a significant step toward strengthening the local workforce and advancing the future of clean, reliable nuclear energy. The donation will fund updated curriculum development, equipment upgrades, student scholarships, and instructors to prepare students for careers in the nuclear energy sector. With nuclear energy playing a growing role in global power sources, the revitalized program will position NMJC students at the forefront of this critical industry.

STEVE MCCLEERY MEMORIAL FUND

Long-time NMJC President Dr. Steve McCleery will be remembered as a dedicated and visionary leader whose impact on New Mexico Junior College and the broader Lea County community was profound and lasting. During his tenure at NMJC, McCleery championed academic excellence, expanded workforce training programs, and fostered meaningful partnerships with industry leaders—all with a steadfast commitment to student success. McCleery’s passing is a deep loss to the NMJC family and the entire region, but his legacy of service, integrity, and innovation will continue to inspire for years to come. After hearing the news of McCleery’s passing in early April, several community members were moved to donate in McCleery’s name, helping to establish the Steve McCleery Memorial Fund. Additionally, the Maddox Foundation donated \$50,000 toward the memorial fund, to honor McCleery’s long-time service and dedication to the entire community. If anyone is interested in donating to the memorial fund, in honor of McCleery, here are some instruction on how to do that online:



To donate in his honor, please scan this QR code or send a check to NMJC Foundation, 1 Thunderbird Circle, Hobbs, NM 88240.

For any questions or further information, please don't hesitate to email foundation@nmjc.edu or call 575-492-2778. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated as we remember and celebrate Dr. McCleery's lasting impact.





NMJC
New Mexico Junior College