

FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER: BUILDING YOUR PATH IN A CHANGING WORLD

Build your path. Know your purpose. Make an impact.





Your career starts before graduation

Today's careers require academic preparation plus applied experience.

Employer are looking for skills, not just coursework



The New Reality

- It's not just what you know, it's what you can do.
- Employers want to hire grads who have:
 - Real-world experiences in an industry
 - Good communication skills (writing and speaking)
 - The ability to work as part of a team
 - Leadership skills
 - The ability to apply knowledge in real situations
 - Emotional intelligence and grit



Human Skills in an AI World

- Technology will change work, but not human purpose.
- Artificial intelligence can organize and analyze information but it can't build trust, lead teams, or serve communities
- AI cannot replace empathy and real-world experience

Making Your Education Real: Four Ways to Build Your Future

- Volunteering
- Research
- Internships
- Service and community engagement

Scan the QR code to visit the [WNMU Career Center](#). You'll find resources on job openings, building a cover letter and, finding professional attire for interviews, and more! >





Volunteering

- Try out new environments and roles; step outside your comfort zone
- Build connections and network
- Learn workplace expectations
- Discover what you enjoy and what you don't!

Scan the QR code to visit the [Volunteer Center of Grant County](#). This program, managed by The Commons Center for Food Security and Sustainability in Silver City, is an online platform that connects volunteers to organizations in Grant County.



Research opportunities at WNMU

Learn problem-solving skills; work with data, develop technical and analytic skills; work as a team and practice professional communication



SRPD Student Research and Professional Development

- Provides students with research and professional development opportunities from student government fees.
 - Funding for presenting and attending professional conferences
 - Funding for independent research supplies
 - Summer stipend opportunities for independent research
 - Summer research assistantship opportunities
- Available to all students with Academic Good Standing.
- To learn more about SRPD funding , contact Dr. Kate Oubre at (575) 538-6524 or email SRPD at srpd@wnmu.edu



< Scan the QR code to visit SRPD

INBRE- The Idea Network for Biomedical Research Excellence

Engage in biomedical, health, and community-based research

- Paid Summer Internships, open to all WNMU students
- Students with little to no experience in the sciences are encouraged to apply (open to non-science majors)
- To learn more, visit the WNMU Faculty Student Coordinator: Dr. Tres Camacho in Harlan Hall or email Dr. Camacho at zenaido.camacho@wnmu.edu



NISE
NM-INBRE Summer Experience

Looking to sharpen your skills and gain hands-on experience this summer? Join our PAID NISE Summer Program!

Application Deadline:
January 30, 2026

Program Dates:
June 3 - July 31, 2026

APPLY TODAY!

New Mexico
INBRE
Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence

The poster features a background image of a laboratory with students at workstations. A circular inset shows two students in lab coats examining a sample. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with a blue and white color scheme.

< Scan the QR code to visit NM INBRE and learn more about various student opportunities

NM AMP New Mexico Access for Minority Participation

- Engages students through paid research with a faculty mentor, as well as professional development opportunities.
- Available to all students majoring in science, technology, engineering and/or math.
- To learn more about AMP at WNMU, contact Dr. James Sanders in the Department of Natural Sciences (Harlan Hall) or email Dr. Sanders at james.sanders@wnmu.edu



<Scan the QR code to visit NM AMP and learn about AMP programs.



New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute

Paid summer research
opportunities open to NM
students; scan the QR code to
learn more



New Mexico
Forest and Watershed
Restoration Institute



Internship opportunities at WNMU

Applied learning; build your real-world career skills; learn workplace culture and expectations; clarify your career direction



The National Park Service

- The Gila Cliff Dwellings offers unpaid internships and volunteer opportunities each summer
- Location: Gila Hot Springs, NM.
- Duties: Work with the public, develop interpretive skills; assist with ongoing research at the Park
- On-site housing, and a uniform are provided
- [Open to any interested student](#)
- Contact Dr. Kathy Whiteman in Harlan Hall or email Dr. Whiteman at whitemank@wnmu.edu



NM State Forestry (Energy Minerals and Natural Resource Division)



- Various paid internship opportunities
- Location: Silver City at the US Forest Service Office; statewide
- **Open to all students**
- Dispatch position in Silver City supports interagency fire crews, Search and Rescue operations, etc.
- Contact Dr. Kathy Whiteman in Harlan Hall or email Dr. Whiteman at whitemank@wnmu.edu



Silver City

Interagency Dispatch Center

NM Department of Game and Fish



- Unpaid opportunity at the Glenwood Fish Hatchery
- Management and care of endangered fish species; interpretive support; site maintenance
- For more information , contact Dr. Whiteman at whitemank@wnmu.edu





NM State Parks

Unpaid opportunities at any time of the year. Various locations throughout NM.

Open to all students

Gain professional experience, work with the public; assist with park maintenance; visitor services

For more information, contact Dr. Kathy Whiteman in Harlan Hall or email Dr. Whiteman at whitemank@wnmu.edu





US Forest Service

- Many opportunities, for all majors: business, communications, science, math, outdoor recreation, education, etc.
- Opportunities for volunteering and job shadowing at any time of the year. Paid internships available in the summer
- Location: Throughout New Mexico
- Students interested in summer employment should apply the previous October for consideration
- Contact Dr. Kathy Whiteman in Harlan Hall or email Dr. Whiteman at whitemank@wnmu.edu



Service opportunities at WNMU

Contribute to a larger mission or
community need; build leadership
and teamwork skills, understand
real-world challenges





CONSERVATION LEGACY

Conservation Legacy

- Paid public-service positions throughout the United States
- Positions strengthen communities through service and conservation
- Programs are intended to help participants develop leadership skills
- Some positions include health insurance benefits, meals, and educational stipends and/or preferential federal hiring post service
- Scan the QR code to learn more and apply





Conservation Corps New Mexico

Paid public-service positions in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas

- Positions strengthen communities through service and conservation
- Some positions include health insurance benefits, meals, and educational stipends and/or preferential federal hiring post service
- Open to all students ages 16-25
- Positions are still open.
- Scan the QR code to learn more and apply





Veterans Fire Corps

- Benefits include transportable certifications, living stipend, education award, protective gear and more
- Open to veterans 21-35
- Scan the QR code to learn more



Years 1 & 2



Explore

- Discover your interests
- Job shadow
- Volunteer
- Meet people
- Try new things and step outside your comfort zone



Years 2 & 3



Try

- Discuss interests with faculty
- Volunteer
- Begin research
- Apply for new opportunities
- Engage in your community



Years 3 & 4



Deepen

- Apply for Internships
- Fieldwork
- Research experiences
- Refine + develop skills
- Contribute to your community



Years 4 +



Launch

- Senior capstone and internships
- Build the bridge from college to career
- Visit WNMU Career Services
- Apply for jobs or grad school

Explore and apply for opportunities, even if you don't think you are ready.

Your future is built through experience

At WNMU, you can achieve your career goals, develop as an independent thinker, contribute to your community, and prepare for a changing world.

