



A University Worth Discovering

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Contact: Abe Villarreal
Phone: (575) 538-6336
news@wnmu.edu

NEW WNMU ALUMNI DIRECTOR HOPES TO GROW MEMBERSHIP

SILVER CITY, N.M – She has been on the job for less than two weeks and already Mary Hittle will travel to Indiana to meet with that state’s Western New Mexico University alumni chapter. “I’ll be introducing myself and listening,” said Hittle, the newly appointed WNMU Alumni Director.

Traveling, just one part of a busy schedule for someone whose biggest job is to court as many alumni as possible, is not new to Hittle. Her hometown high school in Hayward, California was special enough for her to go back every fall for twenty years. That is precisely the behavior that Hittle hopes to instill in WNMU alumni, even from the beginning.

“I would like to have alumni involvement in orientation,” said Hittle. She feels that prospective students can relate to stories that previous students have to share about their alma mater. “Every alumnus has a story.”

Yesterday’s students; however, are not today’s. “Today’s classrooms are so technologically driven,” commented Hittle. She is better prepared than most in bringing the Alumni Affairs office into the new century.

A graduate of Santa Clara University, Hittle received her Bachelor of Science Math degree before completing a 20-year career in the computer industry. Previously a Systems Analyst for the IT Department at WNMU, she believes her experience can help in building up the alumni database. “Additionally, I am looking at the WNMU web pages and will be revamping the alumni pages so that WNMU data is pertinent to current and past alumni,” said Hittle.

WNMU hosts two big events every year that alumni travel from far and near to attend. Those include Homecoming and the Great Race. Hittle hopes to expand opportunities for alumni to give back to the school and perhaps the biggest opportunity for success can come from capturing current students before they graduate. “One of the things I really want to do is have a welcome at graduation time,” said Hittle. Spring graduates usually reach into the three hundred range. Three hundred new active alumni every year would be a success.

Interested alumni can reach Hittle at 538-6675 or littlem@wnmu.edu.



Hittle stands by pictures and memorabilia from WNMU past that fill the walls at Hunter Hall where the Alumni Affairs Office is housed.

Located in Silver City, New Mexico, Western New Mexico University has served the people of the state of New Mexico and its surrounding areas as a comprehensive, regional, rural, public coeducational university since 1893 and caters to a student body diverse in age, culture, language and ethnic background.

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