



*A University Worth Discovering*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DISTANCE LEARNING FUNDS AWARDED TO WNMU

SILVER CITY, NM – Western New Mexico University (WNMU) will now be able to reach more students in more places with funds awarded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The *Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program*, administered by the USDA's Rural Utilities Service, was recently awarded to WNMU to help expand distance learning capabilities to rural areas in New Mexico.

The matching grant will bring in more than \$400,000 to enhance WNMU's distance learning efforts. The main areas of support include replacement of obsolete ITV equipment, improvement of bandwidth availability at the extended university sites, extension of ITV enabled classrooms in the WNMU service areas, and the implementation of automated video lecture capture and distribution.

At least 12 high schools in rural areas such as Quemado and Magdalena will benefit from the improved technology.

WNMU is matching 50 percent of the grant in the amount of \$134,000.

"We want to particularly thank the WNMU students for enabling our application of this grant," said Duane Elms, Director of Information Technology. WNMU's matching monies will be coming from the Student Technology Fee.

A check presentation ceremony will take place on the WNMU campus with Terry Brunner, the USDA Development State Director.

WHEN: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010 8:30 AM  
WHERE: GLOBAL RESOURCE CENTER AUDITORIUM  
WHAT: USDA CHECK PRESENTATION CEREMONY

*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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