

NEWS RELEASE

May 19, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BARBARA COUNTS RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

Silver City, NM – Western New Mexico University’s First Lady Barbara Counts received an honorary degree at the spring commencement on May 13.

The Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters recognition was a surprise to Mrs. Counts until the day before commencement when the Board of Regents voted unanimously to acknowledge her with the honor.

The honor comes at the end of a 19-year career at WNMU, all but one of those years as the University’s First Lady.

Mrs. Counts earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Education from the University of Colorado and taught English for 16 years. After a two-year stint in law school she married Dr. John Counts and entered the Army life.

For the following three years, Mrs. Counts served as first spouse for the U.S. Army European Combat Maneuver Training Complex in Germany, the staff of the U.S. Command Berlin during the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the staff of the U.S. Army War College in Pennsylvania.

After becoming First Lady of WNMU in 1993, Mrs. Counts became actively involved in the Silver City community as a member of several boards and organizations. Mrs. Counts has hosted over 15,000 people at her home and other locations for benefits and socials.

Each year, Mrs. Counts has supported the Expanding Your Horizons program, a one-day workshop for young girls interested in science and math, has taught English as a Second Language to students from Mexico, and has spent countless hours contacting alumni for the alumni database.

Dr. and Mrs. Counts have been married for 26 years and between them have four children and 11 grandchildren.



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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