

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Abe Villarreal

Phone: 575.538.6336

[news@wnmu.edu](mailto:news@wnmu.edu)



### **WNMU'S DEMING LEARNING CENTER DIRECTOR TRANSITIONS TO FULLTIME TEACHING POSITION**

Silver City, NM – Dr. Andrew Hernandez has accepted a position as assistant professor for area studies, and will teach online classes full-time to WNMU students. To help fulfill the growing popularity of online programs, Dr. Hernandez will step down from his current position as Director of the Mimbres Valley Learning Center in Deming.

Dr. Hernandez has been Director at the Deming learning center since 2002, eight months after the learning center opened its doors at the current location. During his tenure, the campus experienced nearly 100% growth in enrollment, as well as growth in courses and degrees offered.

"Dr. Hernandez has served the learning center very well, as an advocate for the learning center, its students and faculty, and by increasing the number of courses and degrees offered locally in Luna County," said Donna Rees, Dean of the Extended University.

"We will miss Dr. Hernandez, but he continues to serve WNMU and its students everywhere as an online professor," Rees said.

The search for a new director will begin later in the summer with an emphasis on hiring someone who is or is willing to be an integral part of the Deming community.

The Deming learning center offers associate degrees in general studies, business, nursing, and criminal justice; a bachelor degree in general studies, and a master of arts degree in educational leadership. More than 470 students taking 3610 credit hours were enrolled during the spring 2011 term.

*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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