

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Abe Villarreal
Phone: 575.538.6336
news@wnmu.edu



WNMU TO CELEBRATE 119 YEARS WITH FOUNDERS DAY EVENTS

Silver City, NM – Happy Birthday WNMU! The annual Founders Day event commemorating Western New Mexico University’s founding is set to take place Friday, February 10 at 3pm in the Alumni Gardens.

The community is invited to celebrate with students from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. outside of Hunter Hall. Birthday cake and a piñata are part of the program, but the highlight of this year’s event will be the burial of a time capsule.

Constructed by WNMU students, the time capsule will be buried adjacent to Hunter Hall for 50 years. Members of the Associated Students are inviting anyone in the community to bring their special WNMU-related items to include in the capsule. Memorabilia can include newspapers, photos, CDs, letters or other small items.

“The time capsule is a great opportunity to provide insight into WNMU’s past and present for future generations,” said Danielle Moffett, Director of Alumni Affairs. “I encourage all area alumni to attend the ceremony and bring their own special item.”

Founders Day activities will conclude with an opening reception at 4:30 p.m. in the WNMU Museum for the new temporary exhibition “Aspiration, Politics and Willpower: The People Behind the Formation of the Territorial Normal School at Silver City.”

Established as a Normal School on February 11, 1893, the university was known as New Mexico State Teachers’ College and New Mexico Western College until it received its current name in 1963.



Pictured is the first class in 1894 gathered on the steps of the First Presbyterian Church in Silver City.

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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