

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WNMU HOSTS ANNUAL HUNGER FOR KNOWLEDGE EVENT

Silver City, NM – Area community members had the opportunity to experience food insecurity at the third annual Hunger For Knowledge dinner at Western New Mexico University on November 2.

More than 70 people reserved seats for the event. Prior to eating the mystery meal, attendees visited with more than 10 information stations facilitated by students enrolled in the Social Inequality and Sociology of Food courses at WNMU.

The stations included poster and model presentations on topics such as childhood poverty, unemployment and food insecurity. Food insecurity refers to the availability of food and a person's access to it.

Designed as an annual fundraiser for the Volunteer Center of Grant County, the event is designed to educate community members on food insecurity issues.

“New Mexico ranks fifth out of fifty states in food insecurity,” said Rebecca Anderson of the Volunteer Center during her presentation to the crowd. “One in four children are food insecure.”

The Volunteer Center, which co-sponsored the event, helped provide information to attendees on food availability in Grant County.

“The Gospel Mission is the only food kitchen in Grant County where people can get a hot meal from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. each day,” said Anderson.

Tamera Ahner and her family attended the event a year ago and returned to experience the event again.

“We wanted to support the students' efforts and support the Volunteer Center,” said Ahner. “Tonight we are given a realistic view of what is served in a food pantry.”

Ahner's daughter Olivia, 12, was impressed with the event from start to finish.

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“I really liked how different it was this year,” said Olivia. “One of the things that stuck out to me was how unhealthy the food is that people say is healthy.”

Participants were served in a soup kitchen style buffet line. The meal included beans, rice, bread, applesauce and either tea or water.

Funds raised at the event will be donated to the Volunteer Center.

For more information on the Volunteer Center: www.tvcgrantcounty.org.



Pictured are WNMU students Curt Pierce, Kim Doka and Susan Golightly showcasing some of the food seen at their poster presentation table.

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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