

# contact!



A newsletter for the friends of Doña Ana Branch Community College | **SPRING 2006**

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The Doña Ana Branch Community College **CONTACT!** is published quarterly by the Marketing and Communications Unit at DABCC. Reader input is always welcome.

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## Service learning not only teaches, but improves lives

When an important word or phrase becomes a “buzz word” or a catch phrase, it tends to lose significance because of overuse, and people tune out when they hear it.

The term “service learning,” however, is very important to Doña Ana Branch Community College students because it’s part of their education. Most programs involve some sort of service learning, or community-service activities performed in the public sector.

Residents and organizations on the receiving end of the community service know of its importance, as well.

Alisa Jaime, a student in Public Health, fulfilled her service-learning experience at the Southern New Mexico Diabetes Outreach, an affiliate of United Way. She conducted classes and gave information on diabetes prevention and care, and did glucose screenings throughout Doña Ana County. She also created brochures in English and Spanish on the warning signs of diabetes.

The organization presented her with an award for her outstanding contributions, a fact that pleases Dr. Teresa Brandon, director of the Public Health Program.

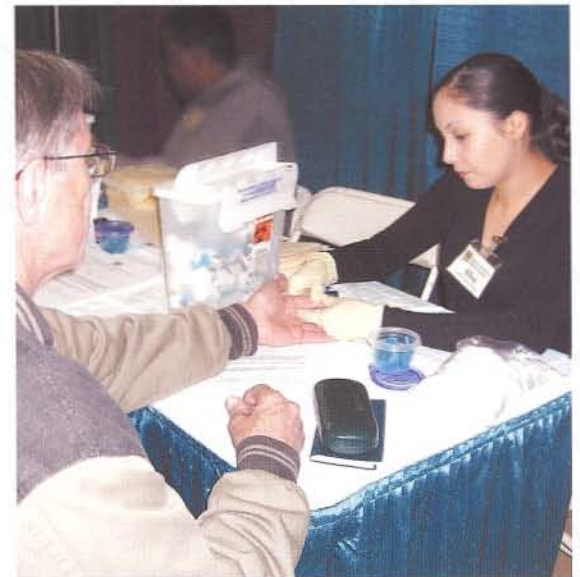
“The relationships with these many agencies we work with have provided our students with enriching and rewarding experiences far beyond their imagination, as well as making a larger-than-life difference to the Doña Ana County needy citizens,” Brandon said.

Shelley Kollar, assistant professor in the Nursing Program, offered a class geared specifically toward community service.

“The class gave the nursing students an opportunity to get to know their community better, and better judge its needs,” she said. “The students were able to experience some of the nontraditional roles that nurses play in various settings.”

Facilities Maintenance Technology Instructor Juan Reyes says that, in addition to hands-on learning, students gain professionalism.

“Whenever we meet with the mayor of a town or



*DABCC Public Health student Alisa Jaime does glucose screening and provides information about diabetes prevention and care at the Baby Boomer event.*

other dignitaries, they learn how to handle themselves in that kind of situation,” he said. “They also learn to work with different age groups, different cultures, and so on.”

Technical and Industrial Services Division students who are involved in Reyes’ Skills USA Chapter have served in every way from repairing children’s and adults’ bicycles, to improving facilities at the Butterfield Shooting Range, to cleaning lots in Ruidoso, to repairing homes and giving the homeowners instruction on how to do repairs themselves.

More community cleanups and repairs are planned for the future, Reyes said. At the Butterfield Shooting Range, where gun-safety classes are offered, planned improvements run the gamut — construction, electrical and plumbing work, drywall, painting, and more.

“It’s a win-win situation,” said Jim Thompson, FMT professor. “The student learns in a variety of situations and settings, and the community gains from their expertise and service.”

## A Message from the CEO



Though holiday seasons come and go — and with them, the giving of gifts ebbs and flows — it seems that the spirit of selfless giving continues to bless our college throughout the year!

In this issue of *Contact*, we celebrate a number of donors who have graciously endowed new scholarships. These donors join the ranks of many others who continuously provide reliable funds enabling deserving students to realize their dreams.

We also celebrate our students who are giving back to the community in a variety of ways even before they graduate, through service learning programs.

It is my hope that you will find these articles to be informative, heartwarming and inspiring.

**Dr. Margie Huerta, CEO**

*Doña Ana Branch Community College*

## Technology aids student placement

DABCC students and alumni who register with the college's Career Placement/Cooperative Education Services will find job searching easier and more convenient by using eRecruiting, an online job-search software program implemented last summer.

Students and recent alumni have "24-7 access," says Placement Specialist Josie Lannert, to part-time and full-time job postings. Students and alumni who create a profile on eRecruiting can upload their résumés and apply for jobs online.

Employers who post positions with DABCC Career Placement Services now receive quicker service, because résumés can be e-mailed directly to the employer.

Employers may call 527-7538, or e-mail [jlannert@nmsu.edu](mailto:jlannert@nmsu.edu), to post part-time or full-time positions with the office.

## Peña raises money for students

It is anticipated that the first Amado M. Peña Jr. fund-raising gala will have raised close to \$6,000, though final figures are not yet in.

Held at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in October, the dinner, art exhibit and sale were attended by more than 125 art enthusiasts.

Peña, a well-known Native American artist, offered an original poster that was sold at the event. He donated a percentage of all sales at the event to the DABCC scholarship fund.

Other sponsors who made contributions included Casa Mexicana Tile (the Peña tile sponsor), Bravo Chevrolet, Wal-Mart (Walton Drive), First Federal Bank, Memorial Medical Center, Roberto's Mexican Food, the Hispano Chamber of Commerce, Eula Fern Thompson, the Amado Peña Foundation, and Hilton Las Cruces.

Now based in Santa Fe, Peña and his wife J. B. have been involved in similar fund-raising



**Amado Peña with DABCC CEO Dr. Margie Huerta**

endeavors with schools in Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and California.

Posters and tiles may still be purchased through Erlinda Portillo at (505) 528-7070.

## Scholarships boost student success

BY ERLINDA PORTILLO, COORDINATOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS/RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

We in the DABCC Development Office are happy to announce the establishment of several new scholarships in fall 2005.

It is heartwarming to know that our community wants to help our students succeed and become contributing members of society. Giving is an investment that we make for the future of not only the students that benefit from our giving, but also for the future of our community.

The following scholarships were initiated in fall 2005:

- Chiu Kwok-Yeung Transfer Scholarship Endowment, for students transferring to New Mexico State University in Community Health
- Healthcare Foundation of Southern New Mexico, a current-use scholarship for students enrolled in health-related programs
- Ann M. Goode Nursing Bridge Endowed Scholarship, for DABCC students transferring to NMSU in Nursing
- Patsy Hernández Memorial Endowed Scholarship, for students pursuing a degree in Library Technology
- Jorge and Martha Moy Endowed and Current Use Scholarship, for students pursuing a degree in Drafting and Design Technologies with emphasis on Civil Surveying
- Southwest Dental Society Hygiene Faculty Fund, to support faculty salary for the proposed Dental Hygiene Program.

We publicly thank these donors for their generous financial support for students at DABCC. As our enrollment grows, so do the needs for more private funding to support student scholarships and instructional needs.

We welcome contributions to current funds or the establishment of new ones; more information is available through Erlinda Portillo at (505) 528-7070.

*At right:  
Longtime NMSU/  
DABCC employee  
Patsy Hernández  
was also a Ballet  
Folklorico dancer.*



*Bottom:  
Jorge and Martha  
Moy, sponsors  
of the endowed  
and current-use  
scholarship bearing  
their name*



# Determined grad ascends educational ladder

In 1997, Rosa Soto spoke no English.

Today, she is a graduate of DABCC's Electronics Technology Program with a 3.7+ grade-point average, headed toward a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, and beyond.

The Juárez native and her husband, also a DABCC graduate, became U.S. residents. Now a 38-year-old mother of four — Isabel, 17; Sara, 15; Andres, 13; and Naomi, 9 — she learned to write and understand English through an English-as-a-second language program in El Paso, but had trouble speaking. When the family moved to Las Cruces, she says she was forced to learn to speak English. She then earned her GED at DABCC.

Soto knew nothing about electronics, but was good at math. So upon learning that the medical programs had waiting lists, she checked out the Electronics Technology Program.

*"When I work  
on a problem,  
I don't give up  
until I finish ..."*

Rosa Soto



She has one more class to finish for a second associate degree, this one in the biomedical option. A student position at Memorial Medical Center working on medical equipment has further motivated her. Using "the buddy system" with some fellow female students that came into the program with her, she and they succeeded and now have the respect of male students.

Soto ultimately would like to teach, probably

math, and probably in a community college setting.

"I'm the kind of person that, when I work on a problem, I don't give up until I finish, even if it's three hours later," Soto said, adding that she earned A's in all of her math classes.

That kind of determination doesn't end with her. Husband Pablo traveled for two years from El Paso to DABCC to finish his Respiratory Care degree six years ago, and now works at MMC.

"I encourage my kids to continue their education, because we had a lot of problems financially, and I would like them to earn more than minimum wage," Soto said. "I tell my kids, 'I'm not going to ask you to get a master's or bachelor's degree. I'd be happy if you get at least an associate degree.' Because I know if they have an associate degree, they can live better."

## OTHER NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS...

The **Health Information Technology Program** was developed and received final approval in the fall 2005 semester, in coordination with the Nursing and Public Health programs in the Health and Public Services Division, and also in conjunction with the Business Office Technology Program, which is part of the Business and Information Systems Division.

The Health Information Technology Program focuses on the diverse administrative and technical skills necessary to process, analyze, and report health information utilized in a wide variety of health-care settings.

**Skills USA** has completed paperwork to become an official chapter, which would give them voting rights and opportunities to be part of the judging process in competitions. The organization at DABCC involves most of the programs in the **Technical and Industrial Studies Division**, including Welding; Automotive Technology; Water Technology; Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration; Electronics Technology; and Facilities Maintenance and Landscaping Technologies. FMLT Instructor Juan Reyes has spearheaded the drive to make the chapter a reality.

Beginning with the spring 2006 semester, the Legal Assistant Program is now **Paralegal Studies**. This name change will officially appear in the 2006-2007 Catalog.

Paralegal Studies student Brissidia Zubia-González recently received the Tonali Women's Legal Alliance Scholarship in the amount of \$250.

**Radiologic Technology Club** students raised \$500 for the victims of Katrina. Members also collected items for a care package sent to troops in Iraq.

The **Hispanic Student Association** made the holidays warmer for the children and families of Juárez murder victims. They held a drive in which DABCC faculty, staff and students donated jackets, sweaters, toys and other items. More than 400 children and their parents attended the giveaway, in which most received an item.

On the drive to the site, said HSA Adviser Mozella García, miles of light posts decorated with black crosses with pink backgrounds led the way. Each represented a female murder victim.

A student of **Emergency Medical Services/Paramedic**, Thomas Cox, was presented the Emergency Medical Technician of the Year Award from Region II EMS at the annual conference.

**Students in Free Enterprise**, comprised of students of both DABCC and NMSU, are adopting a business within the area damaged by Hurricane Rita to help it rebuild. Money for the **Adopt-A-Business Project** and expenses to transport members and goods to the region will be raised through various activities, including a comedy show set for Feb. 17 at Dickerson's Barn.

Members of SIFE, advised by Business Occupations Professor Andy C. Saucedo, also have

teamed up with Junior Achievement in El Paso for an entrepreneurial project with some El Paso schools.

**Adult Basic Education** successfully passed with high marks its four-year program evaluation by the N.M. Higher Education Department in all five categories — Program Administration, exemplary; Curriculum and Instruction, superior; Data Quality, superior; Student Indicators, exemplary; and Community Connections, exemplary.

ABE, headed by Sylvia Durán Nickerson, also notes the awarding of English as a Second Language Coordinator Lizbeth Ascencio as the New Mexico Adult Education Association's Employee of the Year.

**ABE and Literacy Volunteers—Doña Ana County** received additional funding from the Southwestern Area Workforce Development Board, Wal-Mart, Dollar General and the N.M. Coalition for Literacy.

In **Business Office Technology**, a one-week, intensive class on basic tax preparation using TaxWise software (BOT 244, Tax Preparation) will be offered Jan. 9 through 13. This course will require students to perform at least 25 hours of community service, spent preparing taxes for the elderly and economically disadvantaged. For 2006, DABCC and the Community Action Agency are consolidating efforts and resources to offer a "supersite," which will be located at the CAA.

# DABCC students experience connection with Salk and Roosevelt

Five members of the Doña Ana Branch Community College Collegiate Council of the March of Dimes Executive Board were rewarded for their work and volunteerism with a trip to San Diego with their adviser, Dr. Earl Nissen.

Chrystal Esquibel, Jennifer Sánchez, Marissa González, Randi Mariscal and Desiree Cortez, all enrolled in DABCC's Nursing Program, made the trip. Vanessa Tapia — president of the council — was unable to attend. Nissen, the students and 200 local volunteers raised \$22,000 in the last Las Cruces WalkAmerica event, earning seven state MOD awards.

The travelers spent time with Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of polio victim and former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Mrs. Jonas Salk, widow of Dr. Jonas Salk, who developed the polio vaccine; and Dr. Jennifer L. Howse, MOD president.

Not only were they able to attend the 2005 Volunteer Leadership Conference, but they were part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Salk Vaccine at the Salk Institute in La Jolla. It was developed by Salk in 1954 to eradicate polio. Curing polio was Roosevelt's dream in 1938 when he founded the MOD.



*Above: Mrs. Jonas Salk (third from right), widow of the physician who developed the polio vaccine, meets with DABCC students (from left) Chrystal Esquibel, Jennifer Sánchez, Desiree Cortez, Randi Mariscal, and Marissa González, and their adviser, Dr. Earl Nissen, DABCC education instructor. The group was in La Jolla, Calif., for the 50th anniversary of the Salk Vaccine.*



*Outstanding Graduates for the fall 2005 semester, as selected by the NMSU Alumni Association, are from left, Rose Avalos, Business and Information Systems; Jo Anne Otero, Health and Public Services; Sylvia Jaramillo, Technical and Industrial Studies; and Aberlena Bell, White Sands Center. Bell also is an employee at WSC, and this is her second associate degree. Stephanie Faucette, General Studies; could not attend.*

## Protector top fund raiser

DABCC Custodial Worker David Protector received a certificate of appreciation from the March of Dimes for raising the largest share collected by any single person at DABCC during the DABCC March of Dimes Chapter campaign. The total amount garnered by DABCC was \$22,000.

*Left: David Protector*



*Above: Distinguished DABCC Alumni recognized in 2005 are congratulated by Dr. Margie Huerta, second from right. From left, they are Maxine Webber, a Technical and Industrial Studies Division graduate who is the owner of Copper Canyon Homes; Ernest Pérez, a Health and Public Services Division graduate, Registered Nurse, and administrator on duty at Memorial Medical Center; and Victor Roman, a Business and Information Systems graduate who is the information systems manager at Border Foods, Inc.*



DOÑA ANA BRANCH COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
OF NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY