



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mexican Consulate Establishes New Student Scholarships at UNM

Editor's Note: *The Mexican Consulate in Albuquerque, the University of New Mexico and the UNM Foundation are holding a press conference Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 9 a.m. in the University of New Mexico Student Union Building ballroom C to formally announce the IME scholarship fund.*

The Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, through the Mexican Consulate in Albuquerque, is contributing \$50,000 for a scholarship fund to provide 50 University of New Mexico students with \$2,000 scholarships, according to an agreement signed recently with the UNM Foundation. The objective of the IME Scholarship Program is to provide and improve higher education opportunities for Mexican immigrants and students from immigrant families in the United States. The IME contribution will be augmented by matching funds to allow 50 students to receive scholarships for the current and the spring 2012 semesters.

Mauricio Ibarra Ponce de León, Consul of Mexico in Albuquerque, said, "Through this scholarship program and partnering with UNM, the Consulate of Mexico is achieving one of its priorities in terms of directly supporting the educational needs of Mexican and Mexican-American students in New Mexico."

UNM Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Eliseo "Cheo" Torres said, "This important donation will provide support to students who are not only bilingual, but bicultural. These students will be uniquely prepared to contribute positively to the future of our community."

As part of this initiative, the Consulate of Mexico is additionally providing \$10,000 for scholarships to the Central New Mexico College (CNM) and another \$10,000 to the community based organization Plaza de Encuentro, to benefit students seeking ESL, GED and computer courses.

The IME Program is designed to raise the education level of Mexicans, and people of Mexican origin residing in the USA; people with a proficiency in Spanish language; and those with demonstrated leadership and commitment to advance the culture and economy of Mexico. Mexicans living abroad, as well as students with a defined educational interest in advancing the Mexican economy both in the United States and Mexico, are eligible. The IME has presented educational institutions across the United States with scholarship funds since 2005.

The decisive support IME is providing for educational issues is the result of the priority and importance given by the administration of President Felipe Calderon to the improvement of living standards of Mexicans living abroad.

Andrew Gonzalez, Director of College Enrichment Program, UNM Student Affairs, will serve as the liaison for the scholarship program. Community awareness of the opportunity and coordination of the application process for the scholarships will begin in October with final awards made in December retroactively for the fall semester. Scholarship recipients will enhance their educational success through participation in community service programs.

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The University of New Mexico is the state's largest university, serving more than 32,000 students. UNM is home to the state's only schools of law, medicine, pharmacy and architecture and operates New Mexico's only academic health center. UNM is noted for comprehensive undergraduate programs and research that benefits the state and the nation. www.unm.edu

The UNM Foundation's mission is to promote excellence at the University of New Mexico by raising, investing and managing private gifts through the cultivation of long-term partnerships with donors and matching their interests to the University's priorities. www.unmfund.org

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