



DEBRA REYES

I am a proud alumna of Western New Mexico University, where I earned my bachelor's degree in Mathematics with a minor in Business. My journey at WNMU spans more than 30 years, beginning as a work-study student and growing into my current role as Director of Financial Aid.

Having grown up within the WNMU community, I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the transformative impact education can have on young adults. It has been an honor to serve the students of New Mexico and to support them as they pursue their academic and personal goals. My dedication to financial aid is grounded in integrity, service, and a genuine passion for helping students succeed.

Outside of my career, I enjoy spending quality time with my family and exploring the outdoors.

With decades of experience, deep institutional knowledge, and a strong commitment to responsible stewardship, I am honored to be a nominee for the NMAFFAA Treasurer position and look forward to the opportunity to serve our community in this role.

DEBRA REYES

C: (575) 537-7339 | reyesd@wnmu.edu | P.O. Box 391 Hurley, NM 88043

Career Objective

To manage an effective team of financial aid experts that will create successful students and college graduates.

Education

05/1990

Western New Mexico University – Silver City, New Mexico

Bachelor of Arts

- Major: Mathematics
- Minor: Business Administration

Work Experience

2020 – Present

Western New Mexico University – Silver City, New Mexico

Director of Financial Aid

- Oversee all aspects of the financial aid office, including staff supervision, budget management, and program operations.
- Develop and implement financial aid policies and procedures in compliance with federal and state regulations.
- Ensure the accurate and timely processing of financial aid applications and disbursements.
- Stay up-to-date on changes to federal and state laws and regulations related to financial aid.
- Ensure the institution complies with all applicable regulations and policies.
- Manage the financial aid office budget, including personnel and operating expenses.
- Monitor and reconcile financial aid expenditures.
- Experienced in configuring Banner processes, with strong proficiency in basic SQL, population selections and algorithmic rules
- Implemented algorithmic packaging and period budgeting
- Develop and maintain student costs of attendance budgets.
- Maintain accurate records of student financial aid data.
- Prepare and submit required financial aid reports to federal and state agencies.
- Develop and implement strategic plans to maximize the value of financial aid programs for eligible students.
- Identify and pursue opportunities to expand financial aid resources and programs.
- Provide guidance and counseling to students and families regarding financial aid options and eligibility.
- Assist students with completing financial aid applications and navigating the financial aid process.
- Address student inquiries and concerns related to financial aid.

1992 - 2020

Western New Mexico University – Silver City, New Mexico

Assistant Director of Verification

- Administers, monitors, and coordinates all federal, state, and institutional financial aid Grants
- Receives and verifies grant awards, enters information and updates students' records to reflect award funding and initiates PELL payment requests
- Monitors grant dispositions to ensure adherence to all guidelines, regulations, and eligibility criteria
- Prepares and submits PELL payment reports to Department of Education
- Provides financial aid information and assistance to students, i.e.: describes available programs, program eligibility/repayment requirements, and assists students complete financial aid applications to ensure completeness and accuracy
- Monitors and reviews grant budgets with Business Office to ensure accuracy
- Provides assistance to identify and correct out of balance conditions
- Prepares a variety of reports to federal, state, and institutional grant agencies on all expenditures and participants
- Receives and reviews student applications for Childcare Scholarships for selection of award recipients
- Reviews applications for special circumstance determinations
- Participates in annual audits and federal program reviews to provide assistance and information regarding expenditures
- Provides work assignments to work study students

1991 - 1992

American National Bank – Silver City, New Mexico

Loan Secretary

- Processed loan applications, credit checks, and loan payments

Skills & Abilities

- Strong leadership and management skills.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work with diverse populations and understand the needs of students from various backgrounds.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Knowledge of federal and state financial aid regulations and policies.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Proficient with Banner Software