

# Expect Access

Spring 2010 Volume 1, Issue 1

## Students with Disabilities Receive Employment Services

BY GEORGE WILLIAMS, JR.

### UNM HELPS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES INCREASE EMPLOYMENT ACCESS.

Congratulations to the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) for receiving a contract with Social Security's Employment Network Contracts Team (ENCT) to be a Ticket to Work Employment Network (EN).

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has implemented the Ticket to Work program for persons who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits because of a disability. The program offers greater choices in obtaining the accommoda-

tions students need to go to work and aims to engage students in actively achieving employment goals. Students will have more opportunities to test their work ability and move toward self-supporting employment.

The Ticket to Work program pays EN's for goal-oriented milestones and outcomes students achieve through their professional growth. For example, the ARC receives payments based on hiring qualified students (called *beneficiaries*) with a disability who attain certain levels of earnings.

The University of New Mexico (UNM) ARC joins two other universities, the University of Alabama Birmingham and ...cont. on pg. 3

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## Be the Change

BY ANDRES LAZO

### UNM STUDENT AND US VETERAN ANDRES LAZO SHARES HIS EXPERIENCES AND ADVISE ON FOLLOWING GHANDI.

When my mother was four, a boy threw a brick at her head and she lost her left eye.

When I turned twenty-four, a bomb hit me on the right side of my head and I almost lost my life.

Sometimes I wish these things never happened. I wish no one could see the scars outside, or inside.

\* \* \*

Ghandi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." I say this to

myself as I walk to class, as I sit behind a desk.

I think about how my mom taught me to never give up. She never gave up after losing her eye. She never gave up when she had two kids and went back to college. And, she never gave up when cancer struck her body. She lived through chemotherapy.

So, when I'm in class, the teacher will ask a question and the room will silence. I'll figure, *what the heck?* I'll say *something!* Or, when I have a paper due and its five minutes before the deadline, should I race across campus from the computer lab to the teacher's office? *Heck, yes! I can still make it!*

...cont. on pg. 3

# Plan to Achieve with Employment and Education Week

BY GEORGE WILLIAMS, JR.

## UNM AND THE ARC SPONSOR INCOMING STUDENT WORKSHOPS.

The Accessibility Resource Center is dedicating the last days in April 2010 for employment workshops, seminars and educational information about the department for future students with disabilities. This is an opportunity for students to learn valuable tips regarding job searches, the Ticket to Work program, and how to become eligible for services. Please visit [arc.unm.edu](http://arc.unm.edu) or call to register for an event.

G.W.

Schedule of events are as follows:

**APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>:** Work Incentive Seminar.  
10:00 AM—12:00 PM. Dean of Students Conference Room.

**APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>:** High School Orientation.  
9:00 AM—2:00 PM. SUB Lobo A/B.

**APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>:** Career Planning Workshop.  
9:00 AM—2:00 PM. SUB Trail/Spirit.

**APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup>:** ARC Chit Chats.  
9:00 AM—11:00 AM. 1:00 PM—3:00 PM. Dean of Students Conference Room.

**APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>:** Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society *Initiation Ceremony*.  
3:00 PM—5:00 PM. SUB Acoma.

# Interview with Graduating Senior Natalie Olson

BY SAM IRONS

## NATALIE OLSON IS GRADUATING IN MAY WITH A B.A. IN PSYCHOLOGY AND ENGLISH. SHE OFFERS SOME ADVICE FOR INCOMING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

SI: HOW DO YOU SEE THE LAST 8 YEARS AS PREPARING YOU FOR THE WORLD?

NO: More than anything, the college experience has taught me about myself. I'm not taking away the academics as much as knowing who I am.

When I started, I wanted to be a Chemical Engineer (*laughing*). Oh, my gosh! I barely passed my intro Chemistry course. I really dove into each of the areas I was interested in, just to see if I would fit. I think everyone should do that.

Even if you're almost finished with your program and don't like it, that's not wasted time. You spent that time learning about yourself.

SI: DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN?

NO: Most students don't realize that it's all about the instructor and their teaching style, and the individual's learning style.

Speak up. Don't be afraid to talk. Meet with your instructors. Get to know them. They'll recognize your face. They'll want to help you even more because you're taking the time to show that you care.

Don't get discouraged. My greatest accomplishment was the fact that I did what my doctors told my mother I would, most likely, not be able to. But, I did it. No one else could've figured that out but me.

People need to realize that, if they go for what they want, what they truly desire, or what they believe they want to do, the only person who can prove them otherwise, or discover if they even want to go in a certain direction or not, is themselves.

(*laughing*) So, take that, you doctors!

S.I.

### TICKET TO WORK

...from pg. 1

California State University-Fresno, in assisting students to find a job and provide other employment services for free. In collaboration with other departments and agencies, the ARC plans to implement the following objects:

- A focus on the needs of students with employment training to develop strong responsive employment service relationships;
- A development of partnerships with campus departments to launch and invest in on job training;
- An establishment of various employment skills workshops and trainings; and
- An establishment of an Individualized Employment Work Plan that supports

adequate information and that is educationally appropriate and distinct from the employment experience.

For more information about the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work program or if your department is interested in working as employer, please contact George Williams, Jr. in the Accessibility Resource Center. Look for a Ticket to Work seminar the last week of April.

G.W.

### BE THE CHANGE

...from pg. 1

And then, when someone comes up to me and says, "Aren't you an \_\_\_\_ican? Don't you have \_\_\_\_? Are you dis\_\_\_\_ed?" I'll figure, *I'm just me and not any other name.*

\* \* \*

In this world, people will judge you; people will see you as what you appear to be, and what they heard you should be. Well, I say you can change their perceptions. I say, by never giving up, you can show them who you are.

We will fail and we will succeed. We will make mistakes and we will do great things. We will be laughed at and we will

be applauded. We will fall, but we will always pick ourselves back up.

So Ghandi, we can be this change in our lives. And, everything we have wished for will be the result of our perseverance.

A.L.

## **Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society *Initiation Ceremony***

### **INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY WELCOMES EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.**

The Accessibility Resource Center and Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society presents the second annual *Initiation Ceremony*. Undergraduate students with 3.1 GPA's and 24 credit hours and graduate students with a 3.3 GPA's and 18 credit hours are encouraged to attend this special event and become initiated in this prestig-

ious society. Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society recognizes students with disabilities for their academic accomplishments. This ceremony will be held in the Student Union Building on APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2010, starting at 3:00 PM. To register please contact Guiovanna Aguirre in the Accessibility Resource Center by APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>.

G.W.

# **Expect Access**

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