

El Grito de Las Mercedes

Newsletter of the New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Movement

Acequia and Land Grant Education Project efforts continue

The UNM Land Grant Studies Program has partnered with Highlands University for the Acequia and Land Grant Education (ALGE) Project. This year, Highlands University is traveling to school districts and small communities across the state to host a day-long event for educators and community members to create lesson plans that will contribute to a larger curriculum. All lesson plans that have previously been created by teachers and community members through the ALGE project are housed here: <http://www.cesdp.nmhu.edu/index.php/alge-project/>. If you are interested in hosting a workshop event in your community (at no cost), please contact Anissa Baca at nissal7@unm.edu or (505) 692-7033.

Important Reminders

- The Interim Land Grant Committee of the New Mexico Legislature will hold its next meeting on **November 9, 2023** in **Santa Fe**. Visit www.nmlegis.gov for more information.
- The next Land Grant Council meeting will be held on **November 17, 2023 at 10:00 am** in **Albuquerque**. Visit lgc.unm.edu for location information and how to participate virtually or in person.
- The New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo will hold its next meeting on **December 2, 2023**. Location TBD.
- Financial reporting for fiscal year 2023 (July 2022 – June 2023) is due to the Office of the State Auditor (through osa-app.org) by **December 15, 2023**. Land grants that received a distribution from the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund in October 2022 will have to engage in an Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) contract. If you have questions, or need any assistance with the process, please contact Anissa Baca.
- Capital outlay requests for the 2024 New Mexico Legislative Session are available now through **January 11, 2024** at <https://www.nmlegis.gov/CapitalOutlayWeb/Default>. Be sure to discuss your capital outlay priorities as a board and revisit your ICIPs. Also be sure to contact your legislators to discuss your plans and receive their support. If you need assistance in submitting a request, please contact Anissa Baca.

Cañon de Carnué Land Grant hosts latest Interim hearing



The Cañon de Carnué Land Grant hosted the latest Land Grant Interim Committee hearing on October 23 and 24. Presidents and board members from the Town of Tomé, Cañon de Carnué, Chililí, and Manzano Land Grants presented the most recent accomplishments and immediate needs of their land grants. The Town of Tomé Land Grant recently purchased agricultural land in production, in hopes that they can teach youth in the community traditional agricultural methods. They are hoping to purchase more land with a capital outlay award received during the latest legislative session in an effort of conserve these lands for agricultural use. Juan Sánchez (La Merced de Pueblo de Chililí) shared the land grant's vision to expand its affordable housing project, allowing its heirs to remain in the community.

Andrea Padilla, President of the Land Grant-Merced Consejo, updated the Committee on the most recent accomplishments collectively achieved by land grant-mercedes. These accomplishments include acquiring properties and buildings to service land grant communities and several large-scale fuelwood projects that provide communities with firewood for the winter. Committee members also heard updates from Steve Polaco (La Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla) and Leonard Martinez (La Merced de San Joaquin del Río de Chama) regarding the Mercedes Unidas Visitor's Center, previously the Piedra Lumbre Visitor's Center. They shared their need for additional funding to complete all the necessary renovations and their hopes for creating economic opportunities for these northern land grant communities on this property.

Legislators were given a tour the following day of the common lands and campsite operated by the Cañon de Carnué Land Grant. Committee members were also given a tour of La Merced del Manzano's community center and its lake, operated by the land grant. This campsite and lake were both worksites for the Ancestral Land Conservation Corps youth group during the summer of 2022.

