NURSE
ANESTHESIOLOGY
PROGRAM

A Gift Request
in Support of the
College of Health
& Social Services

NEW MEXICO
STATE UNIVERSITY

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FOUNDATION

BE BOLD.
Shape the Future.

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
Las Cruces, New Mexico

OVERVIEW

The School of Nursing is developing a Nurse Anesthesiology program with a focus on rural health and health disparities. We seek support from our healthcare partners to launch this program that will help meet the critical need for anesthesia providers in New Mexico and the surrounding border region.

The New Mexico State University School of Nursing has a proud and successful history of recognizing emerging nursing education needs in the state and region, then rapidly developing successful educational programs to address these needs. Graduates from the NMSU Nurse Anesthesiology Program will be qualified to take the National Certification Exam administered by the National Board of Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists exam to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. This program, comprised of three years of rigorous didactic courses and over 2000 hours of supervised clinical training, will be a concentration in our CCNE-accredited Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists are advanced practice registered nurses who administer anesthesia and monitor patients during surgeries and medical procedures. The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) recognizes CRNAs as "independent practitioners, who plan and deliver anesthesia, pain management, and related care to patients of all health complexities across the lifespan."

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists provide safe and cost-effective anesthesia care. In New Mexico, CRNAs are often the only anesthesia providers in rural health centers and critical access hospitals. Although CRNAs usually work in hospital operating rooms and obstetrical units, there is an increase in the number of CRNAs practicing in emergency departments and intensive care units. In the outpatient setting, CRNAs work in surgical centers, dental clinics, pain management clinics and medical clinics where procedures are performed (e.g., plastic surgery, gastroenterology, urology, ophthalmology, etc.).

SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR CRNAS

- Currently > 200 CRNA jobs posted on Zip Recruiter in New Mexico

- National unemployment rate for CRNAs is < 1%

- Nationally, there are currently ~ 2400 new CRNA graduates/year, however the projected need for 2028 is 7600 graduates/year

- Many local hospitals are having to hire locums and other temporary/on-demand employees from out of state

- Only 124 accredited nurse anesthesiology programs in the country

- For every 1 student accepted, 6 qualified applicants are rejected

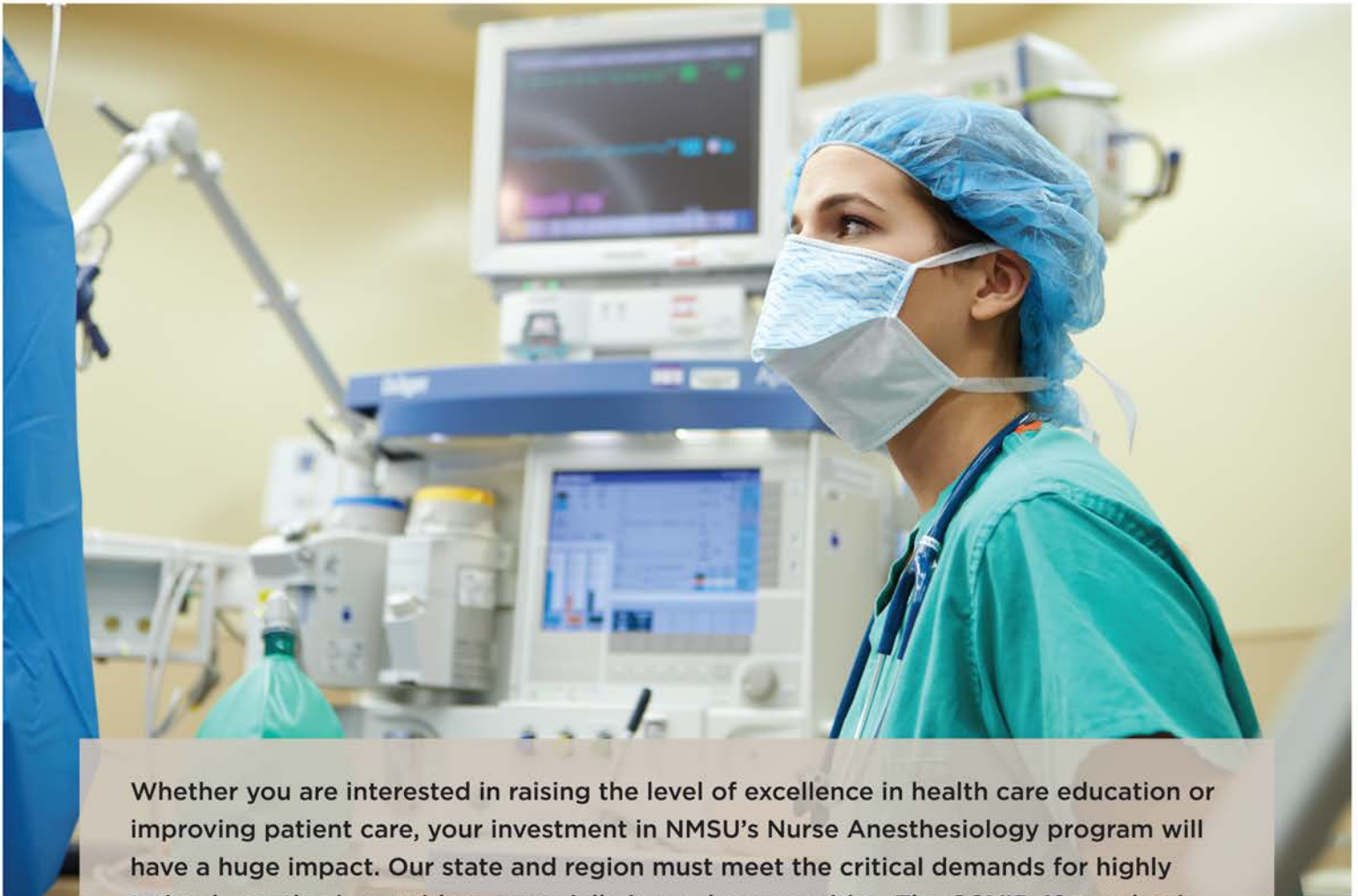## WHY START A NURSE ANESTHESIOLOGY PROGRAM AT NMSU?

- Would attract state-level and national visibility as the first nurse anesthesiology program in New Mexico

- Nearest programs are located in Tuscon, AZ and central Texas

- Be able to offer a 'local' focus on rural health care and health disparities to help address these health crises in New Mexico

- Allow opportunities for local nurses to advance their careers without leaving the state

- Provide a continuous supply of CRNA graduates to fill the positions in New Mexico, especially in rural and medically underserved areas

- Be part of the workforce solution to address projected CRNA retirements and the further increase in demand for anesthesia provider

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY'S DNP DEGREE PROGRAM

We are New Mexico's land-grant institution and a comprehensive research university dedicated to teaching, research and service at all levels. Recognized as a top-tier university by U.S. News & World Report, NMSU is a welcoming community of talented faculty, staff and students who are working together to make a difference. As a Hispanic-serving institution, NMSU offers an accessible education that shapes bright futures.

The changing demands of today's complex health care environment require that CRNAs have the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise possible. NMSU's Doctor of Nursing Practice degree prepares clinical leaders for the highest levels of practice. NMSU's DNP program was first accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in 2014 and reaccredited for 10 years in 2019. Current specialty tracks include Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

Whether you are interested in raising the level of excellence in health care education or improving patient care, your investment in NMSU's Nurse Anesthesiology program will have a huge impact. Our state and region must meet the critical demands for highly trained anesthesia providers, especially in rural communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for health care providers trained to manage critically ill patients in a diverse array of settings. By investing in the development of this program, you can directly impact the quality of nursing and medical care offered across New Mexico and the surrounding border region.
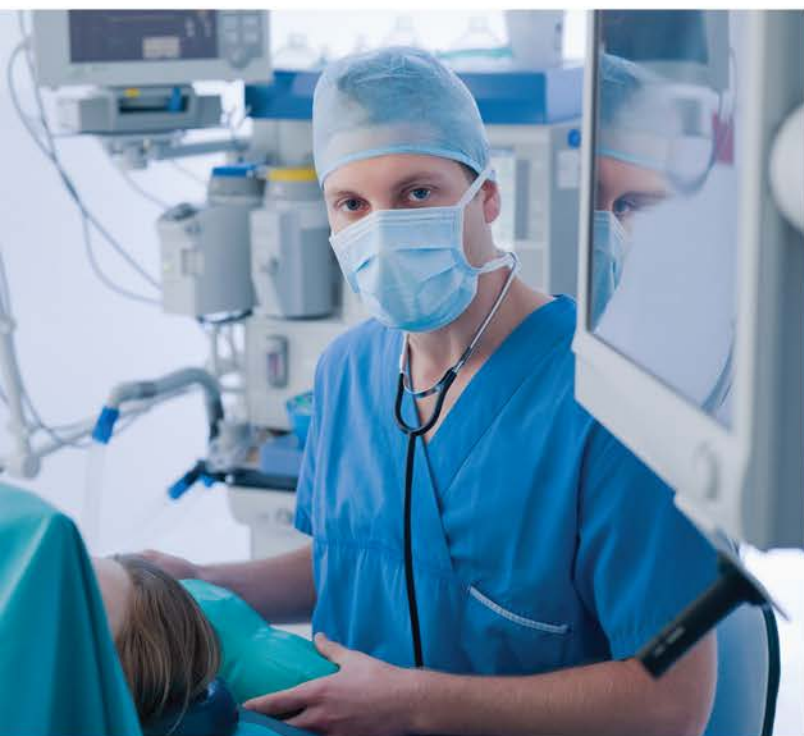
FILLING THE WORKFORCE GAPS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Nationwide, hospitals in rural areas rely on CRNAs to provide necessary anesthesia in surgical, obstetrics and other specialty settings, as well as in the practice of pain management. According to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), CRNAs are more likely to work in lower-income, Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, and unemployed populations. In the post COVID-19 era, patients will have more co-morbidities and a corresponding increase in healthcare needs that CRNAs can help rural communities address.

ADDRESSING THE OPIOID CRISIS

New Mexico is a largely rural state with high rates of opioid and other substance abuse, extreme health disparities and a severe shortage of mental health providers. CRNAs have played a central role in addressing the opioid crisis by incorporating evidence based, opioid free anesthesia and opioid sparing techniques throughout the perioperative phase. The NMSU School of Nursing DNP program emphasizes opioid and other substance use disorder evaluation, treatment and recovery throughout the curriculum.

FILLING THE GAPS IN COVID-19 RESPONSE

In rural hospitals, CRNAs are providing care for COVID-19 patients through airway and ventilator management, shared expertise with emergency medicine and critical care physicians on sedation of ventilated patients, and helping manage the most critical patients until they are transferred to larger facilities.

In urban hospitals, CRNAs are key members of healthcare teams caring for COVID-19 patients, performing intubations, placing hemodynamic catheters, and managing patients on ventilators. CRNAs are working collaboratively with intensivists to manage all aspects of care for these critically ill patients.

A SIMULATION FACILITY FOR NURSE ANESTHESIA TRAINING

Within the newly renovated School of Nursing Skills and Simulation Center, students will be able to develop high level skills and practice team-based simulations, both of which are critical components of nurse anesthesiology programs. Your contribution to the expansion and remodeling of the current 18-year-old facility will have a direct impact on the quality of nursing education delivered by NMSU. An investment in the School of Nursing Skills and Simulation Center will make visible your commitment to healthcare education.

BUDGET - $2.5 MILLION

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & ACCREDITATION

The School of Nursing has developed a 1.5-2 year trajectory for curriculum development, securing of clinical training sites, hiring of program faculty and submission of a self-study report to The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. After achieving accreditation, the program will admit 25 students per year and will prioritize admission to qualified applicants from New Mexico and the surrounding border region.

A goal of this campaign is to raise awareness of the high startup costs associated with these programs. Through tuition and student fees, program operations will be self-sustaining after the admission of the third cohort of students.

Education Consultants - $465,000
Initial Program Accreditation Fees - $35,000
Faculty & Staff Salaries & Benefits - $750,000

SKILLS & SIMULATION CENTER RENOVATIONS

This fundraising campaign focuses on establishing a state-of-the-art clinical training suite for the nurse anesthesia program within the School of Nursing Skills & Simulation Center.

OR Training Suite - $700,000
Clinical Skills Suites - $300,000
Anesthesia Training Equipment - $250,000

"The NMSU School of Nursing is committed to developing a nurse anesthesiology program to meet the critical workforce and health care needs of New Mexico and the surrounding region. Our program will be unique in its focus on preparing graduates who understand rural health care as well as the social and economic determinants that affect population health outcomes in the Borderlands."

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NM STATE FOUNDATION

We look forward to sharing more with you about this tremendous opportunity and critical need within our state. We would welcome a chance to talk with you further about this and other exciting developments happening within the School of Nursing.

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