Inside the sleeping mind of a child, you may find dreams of superheroes, candy lands or monsters. Yet, as early as she can remember, Dr. Blanca Campa dreamt of finding money.

Blanca, an instructor at El Paso Community College and ’08 alumna of New Mexico State University, understood by age six that her family needed help. Days would go by without any food to eat, and the soles in her shoes bared holes too big to hide. Blanca’s life changed for the better, though, the day she started public school in El Paso.

“I remember my very first day of school and how much I loved it,” she says. “We had a free breakfast and lunch every day, and my teachers helped me understand the importance of an education. I knew this was my only way out—the only way to help my family.”

She rarely groaned about taking tests or writing papers like some students. Blanca knew every test, every paper, every assignment put her one step closer to earning a degree that would change the course of her life and the lives of her family.

Eventually, her drive to earn a high school diploma led her to an associate degree from EPCC, both a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree from UTEP and a doctorate from NMSU. She credits teachers and professors along the way for inspiring her to continue investing in herself.

“I just kept taking classes here and there,” she says, laughing. “I didn’t intend to get a doctorate, but when faculty at NMSU noticed how many credits I had, they suggested I go ahead and take a few more to earn it. I had a fabulous experience at NMSU. The classrooms were small, teachers knew our names and they brought their personal and professional lives into the classroom.”

While pursuing her degrees, Blanca worked at EPCC where she remains today after 18 years. Now, she teaches what she calls a “resiliency course” in the educational psychology department, helping students to develop critical life skills, set goals for the future and manage their finances.

“I feel like this course was created just for me to teach,” she says. “It combines my desire to counsel students and share my life experiences to inspire them. Community college students, like I was, Continued on Page 2
Continued from Page 1

**The Key to Resiliency**

are still trying to figure out their lives. Their time at EPCC or any community college is critical, and it’s my job to empower them onto the next part of their academic careers.”


Yet, Blanca’s philanthropy and drive to help students didn’t stop with her book. As a new member of The 1888 Society, she pledged in her estate plan to continue funding an NMSU endowed scholarship she started this fall that rewards minority students transferring from any community college in the United States to NMSU-Las Cruces.

“I empathize with my students all the time,” she says. “Many balance jobs with school and family. All the time, I’m tempted to write my students a check to help with this and that, but they never accept it. Teaching, mentoring and philanthropy are my way of helping students in a different way and proving to them that you, alone, can make a difference in the world.”

You can make a difference for NMSU students with a gift for the future. To learn more, contact Robert Peterson at (800) 342-6678 or plannedgiving@nmsu.edu.

Current and planned gifts are critical in keeping NMSU accessible for those striving to earn an associates degree or certificate, or to learn a new vocation. In my role at the NMSU Foundation, it’s been gratifying to serve our community college alumni and friends of NMSU-Grants, Alamogordo, Carlsbad and Doña Ana, who give generously through time, talent and philanthropy.

Dr. Blanca Campa’s recent 1888 Society gift (cover story) took shape during our recent chat over coffee in El Paso to hear her “Aggie story.” And, there are many more community college enthusiasts whose giving is deeply personal and supports the burgeoning community college movement.

In 2008, I assisted an alumna’s three children to establish the Dr. Janine Twomey Endowed Scholarship at NMSU-Alamogordo. Dr. Twomey completed her doctorate in psychology at NMSU in 1990, when her son began his freshman year at NMSU. Janine was the first woman to serve as NMSU-Alamogordo campus director.

The VIP Self Storage Endowed Scholarship at NMSU-Carlsbad was established last year by Bill and JoAnn Vandergriff, who asked me to help them fill a critical need: support for diverse, non-traditional students.

Their scholarship targets students that have a gap in their education after high school.

For the benefit of NMSU-Grants, the Lucy Ma Endowed Scholarship in Memory of Mother, Irene Stokes, was established by Lucy and Jonathan Ma in 1986. Imagine the impact of 69 lives transformed to date! During Lucy’s 16 years at the college, she held many positions, including adjunct faculty director, teaching English literature.

Many people ask me, “Robert, how can you work in fundraising?” The way I see it—what an adventure and honor it is to serve those who love our NMSU system as they experience “the joy of giving” while helping the dreams of Aggie students and faculty come true.

Warmly,

Robert D. Peterson
Gift Planning Director
NMSU Foundation
plannedgiving@nmsu.edu
Starting an academic career as an NMSU Aggie—no matter your ZIP code or financial background—is easier with the help of the NMSU system. This is a network of five campuses: including Alamogordo, Carlsbad, Doña Ana, Grants and Las Cruces, which all work together to serve a variety of students, active duty or retired military, working parents and others seeking higher education throughout New Mexico.

It’s a system of empowering resiliency, as mentioned by Dr. Blanca Campa in the cover story. Led by Chancellor Dan Arvizu, the NMSU system operates as a one-stop-shop, offering educational K-12 outreach to New Mexico through its 12 Ag Science Centers and statewide Cooperative Extension Service, as well as meeting prospective students’ post-secondary educational needs regardless of their stage in life.

“The beauty of the NMSU system is that location and time are no longer barriers to a high-quality education,” Arvizu says.

The NMSU system meets a critical need in today’s world of higher education. Unlike the needs of four-year students, community colleges reach a more diverse group of people who employers need trained for jobs available today.

“If a student’s passion doesn’t require a four-year degree, the NMSU system, through one of the community college campuses, offers several two-year degree, vocational and certification programs that equip students for high-paying, high-demand jobs in the workforce right now,” Arvizu says.

On top of that, gaining a degree is more expensive than ever, and NMSU’s community college campuses provide financially weary students a more affordable experience.

“In other words, we’re able to show our students what NMSU is all about no matter what campus they attend,” Arvizu says. “Because we’re all part of the same system, our faculty care for our students the same, our operations move in the same way, and also important, our NMSU Foundation serves students across the entire system with scholarships in the same way.”

Philanthropy through the NMSU Foundation impacts not only the 13,600 students at NMSU-Las Cruces but also the 10,000 additional students enrolled at NMSU’s four campuses across the state. That means donors, through planned gifts or other funding, can create scholarships specifically to community college students through the NMSU Foundation.

“The NMSU system ensures that becoming an Aggie has no operational barriers,” Arvizu says. “But with the support of our faculty, staff, alumni and friends who donate to NMSU students through the Foundation, we prevent financial barriers as well. No student will take the same educational paths to reach academic success, but through the NMSU system, success will always be what’s waiting at their finish line.”

GIVING TUESDAY
Mark your calendars for NMSU’s Giving Tuesday on November 27! Matching funds may be available. Learn more at support.nmsu.edu/GT.
Fall 2018: 1888 Society Honor Roll

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
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Create Your Legacy

Our guides Build Your Best Estate Planning Team and 12 Ways to Make a Meaningful Difference can help you get started creating a secure estate plan, including great year-end giving ideas, that supports the people and places that matter most. Return the enclosed reply card to request your copies.

The 1888 Society recognizes individuals who have notified us that New Mexico State University is included in their estate plan as the beneficiary of a will, trust, life income gift, life insurance policy, retirement plan or other planned gifts.

Anonymous
Lonnie and Maria Elena Abernethy
Scott and Sue Ackleson
Barbara L. Allen
Ernest Sichler and Stephanie Armitage Sichler
Leonard and Stephanie Armstrong
Pres and Patti Ash
Suman Bagga
Audry Bailey
Larry and Gail Barnes
Ron Beacham
Donald and Patsy Beasley
Jari Bennett Grimm
Betty Jane Biddalde
Philip Bills
Chuck and Sally Bisbee
Robert1 and Maurine Blackwell Charles and Ursula Boatright
J.W. and Janet Bowman
Vicki L. Bruch
Mary Budenholver1 Blanca Campa
Dino and Heidi Camunez
Ann Carlson
Garrey and Kathy Carruthers
Gary and Gracie Cataldo
Glen and Susan Cerny
Jim and Sharon Clayton
Frankie Clemens
Mickey and Jan Clute
W. Thomas Connelly and
Miriam Chaiken
John and Laura Connif
Bill and Patty Conroy
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John Beatty Cotnam
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M. Steven Daugherty
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Archer and Barbara Fitch
Scott and Cheryl Fowler
William and Lois Friel
Harlan Gerardy
Brad Gilbreath and Erin Frew
Clark Goding
George and Barbara Goedecke
Bradford Gorden
Roberta Gran
Joel Granger
Tara Gray
Ron and Nicole Gurley
Andres Gutierrez
Paul Gutierrez
Jim and Ann Halligan
Jeanne Hansen
Margaret Hardin
Barbara Hart
Robert Hartmann
Gail Harvey
Lorraine Harvey
Karen C. Hendrickson
Kay C. Hernandez
Walt and Bettie Hines
Mark Hohnstreiter
Bill Holcomb
Denton Holmes
Hal Hopson
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Douglas Huston
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Joyce Jaynes
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Price and Lyn Kaye
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G. Patrick and Margo Lamb
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Marion L. Lawrence
David Le Mone
Connie Lee
Felipe and Victoria Lim
Tom and Linda Lindsay
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John and Susan Long
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Vern and Judith Malec
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Jacquilyn Thompson Myers
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Trudi Hahn Pickett
Wayne and Terry Ponce
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Flinda Prevost
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Robert Charles Rhome
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Laura Tschida
Dave and Eula Fern Thompson
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José and Joan Uranga
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Sharkey and Nancy Warrick
Nancy Lightfoot Watson
Chuck and Debbie Wider
Paul Willerson
Ron and Penny Wills
Susan Wright
Don and Elaine Yannessa
Freddy and Rosalind Yarbrough
Herk Zuhl

1 recently deceased