During times of great crisis, the NMSU Aggie family has consistently stepped up to ensure that future Aggie alumni succeed. Current students face challenges related to a global pandemic, economic upheaval and renewed movement for racial justice and police reform, and their resilience during their college years will likely have a lasting impact on their success.

Two 1888 Society members, Miriam Chaiken and Blanca Campa, are examples of how Aggie family members are making sure students have what they need in order to achieve their goals.

Miriam, the former William Conroy Honors College dean who retired in July, increased her donations to Aggie Cupboard to help provide food for students, and to the Honors College Dean’s Fund for Excellence, which provides scholarships for students in need of funds for textbooks, computer support and research. “As an educator, I know that some students are able to weather challenges easier than others, and when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it was clear that the impact on our students was highly varied,” Miriam says. “This is a time for all of us to help each other in any way we can.”

Blanca earned her Ph.D. from NMSU in 2008 and is a professor at El Paso Community College. Her life experiences, including immigrating to the U.S. from Mexico as a child, have motivated her to write a book about fostering resilience. “Resilient people sense a larger purpose to their lives, looking beyond their immediate challenges and goals and envisioning a better world for themselves and others,” Blanca says.

She recently initiated a Resilience Scholarship to help community college students transfer to NMSU, and has donated the proceeds from her NMSU Teaching Academy presentations. She is working on a second book so that she can continue to donate to the NMSU Foundation in support of students.

A Gift for Tomorrow
You too can help promote resilience for the next generation of NMSU students through a future gift to the NMSU Foundation. It’s a simple way to ensure tomorrow’s leaders and innovators have access to the education and resources they need to be successful. Contact Robert Peterson at (800) 342-6678 or plannedgiving@nmsu.edu to learn about your giving options.
DEAR FRIENDS

As the 132nd fall semester begins at NMSU, we face a very different learning and research environment than in years past. That presents many challenges, but it also brings about a great conversation on the importance of resilience for our inspiring Aggie students, faculty and alumni. They provide eloquent insight into a burning question: Just what can NMSU offer students to prepare for and succeed in their academic studies—especially when we consider the compounding impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, hard economic times and the noble struggle for social justice?

I extended this conversation, during my recent “Aggie Fireside Chats,” with folks all around the country. Indeed, alumni of all ages offered a common theme—expressing gratitude for our faculty and staff who took a personal interest, offered inspired teaching and mentoring, encouraged the development of critical life skills and set goals for a successful future.

Since 1888, Aggie students have begun the academic year under many different challenges, including health and economic crises, wars around the world, suffrage and civil rights movements, natural and environmental disasters and even terrorist attacks. During WWII, College of Engineering Dean “Dad Jett,” himself a WWI veteran, became a personal pen pal with hundreds of former students serving in the war. His correspondence lifted morale and encouraged students to return home to school when the war ended.

NMSU is a very special place and has often offered our students an island of stability, a second home and an extended family. The NMSU system is not just five campuses in New Mexico. It is a place with a culture of leadership and caring. Aggies keep this bold spirit in our hearts.

Another insight I’ve gained from both alumni and students is the importance of philanthropy. Lucas Rivera, who is featured in this issue of Look to the Future, told me his academic career was made possible in part by scholarships established by planned and estate gifts, and he confided that receiving that support has been a comfort and a relief.

Just as the university experience provides some critical stability for our resilient students, I think it is clear that our 1888 Society members—and all the folks who give of their time, talent and philanthropy—provide a little bit of comfort to our students. Here at the NMSU Foundation, we extend a special Aggie thank you to all who have helped to make the dreams of Aggies come true—especially during times of greatest need.

Please take care,

Robert D. Peterson
Gift Planning Director
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(800) 342-6678

For more information about how the NMSU Foundation is navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, visit support.nmsu.edu/covid-19.
Growing up in a small town with just a few hundred people is an experience many people cannot fathom. For students like Lucas Rivera who grew up in Canjilon, a tiny village in northern New Mexico, obstacles often prevent them from pursuing their higher education goals. But Lucas overcame the challenges and is slated to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering in December 2020.

Lucas receives scholarship support made possible by planned gifts, including the Joseph and Dorothy Lowe Scholarship for Students in Civil Engineering, established through a bequest from a 1932 graduate and his wife.

Lucas acknowledges that assistance from scholarships and donors helped pave the way to his success.

“The biggest factor in deciding to pursue an education for most students like me is the financial feasibility of being able to afford four years without work or significant income,” Lucas says. “Every time I received a scholarship in my time as an undergrad, I felt a reaffirmation that I was on the right path, that the actions I was taking were worthwhile and that there were those whom I did not even know that believed in me.”

During his time at NMSU, Lucas discovered an interest in community service and travel. And as a member of Aggies Without Limits, he could combine those interests and help serve communities around the world.

“Upon witnessing the amazing people of the NMSU community be active forces of positive change in the world, I felt incredibly inspired,” he says.

With only a semester remaining as an NMSU undergraduate, Rivera appreciates the experiences he gained.

“NMSU provides great value to students in the form of affordability, quality of education and opportunity,” he says. “I never expected to travel to the places I have been, worked the jobs and internships that I did, or made the amazing friends that I have made. I would not change anything.”

As a member of Aggies Without Limits, Lucas Rivera has traveled the world to help developing communities improve their quality of life by assisting with sustainable engineering projects.

Family First: Asset Protection in Uncertain Times
The cornerstone of planning your estate is asset protection, so you can take care of your family first, and also create opportunities for inspiring Aggie students like Lucas. Contact Robert Peterson at plannedgiving@nmsu.edu or (800) 342-6678 for a free estate planning kit or download yours at plannedgiving.nmsu.edu today. In these uncertain economic times, this resource helps you set goals to care for your family and causes you care about most, including NMSU.
Fall 2020: 1888 Society Honor Roll

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
Leonard and Stephanie Armstrong
Presa and Petr Askew
Richard J. and Susan A. Bagby
Suman Bagga
Larry and Gail Barnes
Ron Beacham
Donald and Patsy Beasley
Betty Jane Biddulph
Philip Bills
Chuck and Sally Bisbee
Robert1 and Maurine Blackwell
Charles and Ursula Boatright
J.W. and Janet Bowman
Vicki L. Bruch
Blanca Campa
Dino and Heidi Canunez
Ann Carlson
Garrey and Kathy Carruthers
Gary and Gracie Cataldo
Glen and Susan Cerny
Jim and Sharon Clayton
Frankie Clemons
Mickey and Jan Clute
W. Thomas Connelly and Miriam Chaiken
John and Laura Conniff
Bill and Patty1 Conroy
Gregory Contaldo
John Beatty Cotnam
Nancy Cox
Warren Cox and Sue Forster Cox
M. Steven Daugherty
Doris Davis
Jack and MaryLou Davis
Linda Davis
Robert J. Dever
Esther L. Devall
Derek and Nikki Dickson
Joseph and Anita Dietz
Richard Dolly
Chester and Gwen Dyrud
Susan Eidson
Greg and Beth Fant
Barbara Rose Farber
Arnie and Lynne Feldman
Helen Finch
Janice Firkins
Archer1 Fitch
William and Lois Friel
Harlan Gerardy
Brad Gilbrean and Erin Frew
Clark Goding
George and Barbara Goedecke
Bradley Gordon
Roberta Gran
Joel Granger
Tara Gray
Ron1 and Nicole Gurley
Andres Gutierrez
Paul Gutierrez
Jim and Ann Halligan
Jeanne Hanssen
Margaret Hardin
Barbara Hart
Robert Hartmann
Gale Harvey
Lorraine Harvey
Karen C. Hendrickson
Kay C. Hernandez
Walt and Betty Hines
Don Hogan
Mark Hohnerstreiter
Bill Holcomb
Kathryn Holladay
Denton Holmes
Hal Hopson
Sallie Hunt
Douglas Huston
Maryce Jacobs
Joyce Jaynes
Jim Johnson
Shari Jones
Price and Lyn Kaye
Kevin Marvel and Jen Kerns
Conrad and Tywilla Keyes Jr.
Paul A. Kinneberg
Frank and Barbara Kozeliski
George and Joyce Kozeliski
G. Patrick and Mango Lamb
Parry Larsen
Marion L. Lawrence
David Le Mone
Connie Lee
Richard and Cynthia Leza
Felipe and Victoria Lim
Tom and Linda Lindsay
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Jonathan Ma
Vern and Judith Malec
Deann Mehta and Michael Allen
Don Martin
Dan Martinez
Pete and Nancy1 Matchett
Kent and Anne McIntosh
Eugene McKim Jr.
Jim and Elaine McKinney
Jimmy and Sylvia Miller
Mike and Jan Morehead
Roy and Elizabeth Morgan
Mary Mortimer
Antonia Muhlberger
James Murclden
Byron Dale Myers and Jacquelyn Thompson Myers
Rose Nakayama
Eugene Nance
Brian and Marcy Walker Papen III
Charles “Mick” Parker
Timothy Glen Parker
Steve and Sheryl Parsley
Ellen Peffley
Fabiola Pena
Laree Perez
Robert and Thelma Peterson
Joseph Petroko
Charles and Betty Pfeifer
Trudi Hahn Pickett
Wayne and Terry Ponce
Brenda Porter
Eldna Prevost
Skip Prichard
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Leon and Barbara Radziewski
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