

DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- 4/11-4/13 ACA
- 4/11-4/14 AERA
- 4/22 ASHE Proposals Due
- 4/25 NBCC Career Fair

UNIVERSITY DATES + DEADLINES

- 4/25 Last day to withdraw
- 4/29-5/3 Last Week of Instruction
- Upcoming - 5/10 Commencement

CAMPUS EVENTS

- 4/5 PEP Career Fair
- 4/8 Career Night: Workplace Writing
- 4/9 Interview Like a Professional
- 4/20 Earth Jam
- 4/24 Blood Drive
- 4/27 Sexual Assault Awareness 5K

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

- DeVante Parker

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

- Dr. Susana Hernandez

CULTURAL SPOTLIGHT

- Earth Day
- Autism Awareness Month

Working with Eating Disorders

Workshop At the North Valley Campus on Thursday, April 4 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Dr. Amy Biang, LCMHC, CEDS, NCC will lead a conversation about working with clients who have eating disorders. Dinner will be provided (for in-person attendees). Click [here](#) to sign up. Please RSVP by April 1, 2024. This workshop will also be delivered virtually over zoom for those unable to attend in-person. We hope to see you there!

Allison Stenger was selected as a recipient of the Commission on Disability Access and Design Leadership Award. She is being recognized for her efforts for promoting full and equal access for individuals with disabilities, promoting a campus climate that values individuals with disabilities, supporting career and professional development opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and educating the campus on disability issues that affect university policy, practices and programs. Allison was also featured in the [NAU Review](#) last semester if you would like to read more about her.

Congratulations, Allison!

Please be sure to send us pictures and announcements of all the wonderful things that happen this year and we will feature them in the newsletter. Send these to Tessa.Alexander@nau.edu.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- [ACA](#) will be April 11-13 in New Orleans. Registration is now open.
 - [AERA](#) will be April 11-14 in Philadelphia.
 - [ASHE](#) proposals are due April 22nd. The theme for this year is “I Am a Scholar.”
 - [NBCC](#) Career Fair will be held virtually on April 25th .
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ACADEMIC DATES + DEADLINES

- 4/25 Last day to withdraw from all classes in a session
 - 4/29-5/3 Last week of Instruction
 - 5/10 at 4 pm - College of Education Commencement Ceremony
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CAMPUS EVENTS

- 4/5 10 am - 2 pm | [Professional Education Programs Career Fair](#) | High Country Conference Center | Hundreds of schools from all over Arizona will be in attendance
- 4/8 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Career Night: Workplace Writing | [Zoom](#) | Learn about careers in professional writing from NAU alums.
- 4/9 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm | Interview Like a Professional | Transfer Jacks Lounge - Fieldhouse | This is an interactive workshop hosted by Career Development.
- 4/20 2 pm - 7 pm | Earth Jam | North Quad | In celebration of Earth Day stop by the quad for workshops, music, food, activities, and a sustainability fair.
- 4/24 10 am - 3 pm | Blood Drive | Union Fieldhouse | This blood drive is open to anyone in the community, not just NAU affiliates.
- 4/27 9 am | [Sexual Assault Awareness Month 5k](#) | Lumberjack Stadium

NAU
Events

Flagstaff
Events

Phoenix
Events

Tucson
Events

Student Affairs Events

It has been a busy month for our Counseling-Student Affairs students. Many of our current and past students attended the **Showcase of Strategies for Student Success**. This was the 20th annual showcase and included many poster presentations, conversation tables and more. Dr. Hernandez snapped a photo of all those in attendance show below left. Many of these same students also attended the **Student Affairs Professional Development Day** Friday March 22nd. Julia Garfield shared the below right photo with us. Great job representing the department at these impactful NAU events!



School Psychology Field Trip

School Psychology EdS and Combined Counseling/School Psychology PhD students visited Puente de Hozho Elementary School to learn about diversity, equity, and inclusion approaches in a local school. Puente de Hozho features dual English/Spanish and English/Dine language tracks, a Montessori track option, and an international baccalaureate instruction modality in all classrooms. NAU students had the opportunity to meet and interview with administrators and teachers to talk about diversity, special education, and bilingualism.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This month our student spotlight is DeVante Parker, a Counseling - Student Affairs student who is about to graduate in May. DeVante currently holds a graduate assistantship in Campus Living. “I've been working on our Campus Living BIPOC Collective as an advisor to hopefully give student staff of color in campus living a place where they can find community and feel like they belong within the department. I also have been working with counseling services to bring a licensed therapist into the communities to be able to talk to community members about the services they provide and to hopefully destigmatize counseling as a whole.”



Recently, DeVante wrote a column in the Campus Living staffing newsletter called "FUN" and he says “the big takeaway really is to remember the why and to try to have as much fun as possible within the role that you are in, especially when working with students. I've been lucky enough to have a role where I can put things that I like (ie: wrestling, music, sports, etc) into it and have fun with the community members and I think that we could do that in most roles to certain extents. But try to have as much fun as possible!”

DeVante is excited to be graduating in May with his cohort members Jess A., Chelsea H., and Anahi P. “Shoutout to Liza A. and Shauna B. cause they are with us in spirit.” After graduation, DeVante hopes to stay in housing as a full-time hall director or something adjacent. He says that in the years to come, and when he feels ready, he would like to pursue a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology or another higher education program.

When asked about his hobbies, DeVante says, “ I love wrestling! It's probably my favorite thing in the world other than my family and my rambunctious cat, Daria. I just got to go to Greensboro to watch a legendary wrestler named Sting (not the singer) to retire with 16,000 other people at AEW Revolution. That was the 7th live event that I've seen in person (I don't want to think about the total cost in tickets, and I have officially watched pro wrestling in 5 different states (Virginia, Nevada, Illinois, Arizona, and North Carolina). As far as other hobbies, I love listening and making music, I play 3 instruments (guitar, drums, and keys). And I also want to shout out my two sisters (who pictured) Maxine and Madison.”

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

For April, we are spotlighting Dr. Susana Hernandez who is our Faculty Program Coordinator for the Counseling - Student Affairs program. Dr. Hernandez is a dedicated and passionate instructor, researcher, and member of the NASPA- Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. She is excited to be teaching one of her favorite classes from when she was a graduate student this spring, College Student Development Theory. “I enjoy talking about development theories focused on young adults that CSA students can actually apply and see within the students they interact with at NAU. I also find it rewarding to see students making connections and recognizing how going to college influenced their own development and who they are today.”



In regard to her research, she says, “My experiences as a student affairs practitioner and as a first-generation Latina in higher education shapes and informs my research, as well as my work with students. Before going back to school for my Ph.D., I worked in student affairs as the Assistant Director of Intercultural Student Services at the University of Houston- Clear Lake. Specifically, my research is centered on using critical and non-deficit frameworks to study how higher education state and institutional policies may create hostile campus environments for racially and ethnically minoritized students and faculty. Some current policies I’ve examined include developmental education reform policies and campus carry policies. More recently, I’ve also looked at technology and AI at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). With the increase of AI within higher education, I’m excited to learn more about how HSIs are implementing AI and technology to support their students. I’ve had the opportunity present my research at ASHE and AERA national conferences and I have a couple publications from this work.”

- Hernández, S. H. (2021). Surviving campus carry: A CRT analysis of faculty of color at a Texas public PWI. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dhe0000372>
- Hernández, S.H., McKinney, L., Burrige, A., & O’Brien C. (2023). Transforming developmental education at community colleges through equity-minded leadership. In J. Burmicky & C. Hartman (Eds.), *Equity-driven and social justice-oriented leadership*. *New Directions for Community Colleges*, 202, (pp. 89-103). John Wiley & Sons, Inc. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cc.20571>

Dr. Hernandez feels that the biggest take away from her work is that “higher education was not founded or built for minoritized communities, so academic structures and policies were not developed with us in mind. For minoritized communities, higher education is often the solution to future prosperity for themselves and their family, yet successfully earning a college degree can be such a convoluted and complicated process. Ultimately, I hope my work can bring attention to how institutional policies and practices that on paper look great, may not always be helping the students and faculty that need the most support.”

Beyond her professional pursuits, Dr. Hernandez is proud to be the daughter of Mexican immigrants from Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico. “I grew up going to Mexico every Christmas to visit my grandparents until they passed away and I truly cherish those memories.” She also loves playing sports and supporting the athletic programs from her alma maters (University of Wyoming, Iowa State University, and Texas A&M University). “I grew up playing sports (softball, basketball, volleyball, track) and I still enjoy playing coed softball though I haven’t looked into a league in Flagstaff. I also enjoy watching and going to live sporting events.”

CULTURE AND DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT



Celebrating Earth Day! This annual event was created in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson to increase public awareness of the world's environmental problems and to protect the Earth's natural resources for future generations. [Earthday.org](https://www.earthday.org) has named 2024's theme "Planet vs. Plastics". Their goal is to reduce plastic production 60% by the year 2040. To ready more about how you can contribute to this and other causes, you can visit their website linked above. [Earth Day celebrations](#) are taking place across the state! Some include:

- Friday, April 19 - SAC is sponsoring a fire mitigation project at the Observatory Mesa Fire Area, commitment is 3 hours. Please contact mike.bouck@nau.edu for more information and to sign up
- Saturday, April 20 from 11:00- 2:00 at [Bushmaster Park, Flagstaff Az.](#)
- Saturday, April 20 - 8:00 -9:00 a.m. Free Compost Workshop at [Escalante Community Garden in Tempe](#)
- Saturday, April 20 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. at the [Children's Museum](#) in Tucson/Oro Valley
- Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 a.m. [Arbor Day Run for Earth Phoenix](#)

NAU has a commitment to bring sustainability to our planet and community. The [Office of Sustainability](#) on campus carries out its mission to "create, maintain and enhance NAU through continuous improvement and sustainable practices." Under this office, [Green NAU](#) focuses on sustainability on our campus and ways to reduce our carbon footprint through carbon action plans, sustainability forums, green fund and green jacks. (You may have noticed the recent placement of designated recycle and trash bins in the hallways.) Want to get involved? NAU's [Energy Mentor program](#) offers classes and trainings on how NAU community members can lead their peers in energy awareness. Green Jacks is another organization open to all students, faculty, staff and administrators who are interested in ways to contribute making our planet more sustainable. For more information you can email greenjacks@nau.edu.



April is Autism Awareness Month. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a developmental disability in the brain that that impairs the ability to communicate and interact with others. Persons with ASD may demonstrate repetitive behaviors, challenge with social skills, speech and nonverbal communication. Signs of autism usually appear in children around age 2 -3. Organizations such as [autismspeaks.org](https://www.autismspeaks.org) work to create an "inclusive world for all individuals with autism throughout their lifespan". Each year they sponsor an [Autism Speaks Walk](#) to fundraise and bring members of the community together to networks, build advocacy and fuel research.

