JULY 2025

Presented by:

# The School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (HRTM) at New Mexico State University (NMSU)

## JUNE SkillsUSA Nationals in Atlanta, GA




For the third year we had the honor of representing the School of HRTM and NMSU at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference and participating in their Techspo as vendors to introduce students to opportunities related to their interests in Restaurant Operations, Culinary Arts, Agriculture and more! It is our pleasure to also serve as a judge in support of the Restaurant  Service competition where students perform tasks and role play a formal dining service.




## JULY FCCLA Nationals in Orlando, FL

For the second year, we represented HRTM and NMSU at the National FCCLA Competition in Orlando, FL. As an exhibitor we had the opportunity to introduce areas of study related to Hospitality, Tourism, Culinary Arts as well as Nutrition, Sustainability and Teaching. Congratulations to all the competitors representing their home states!



## Plans for Fall 2025

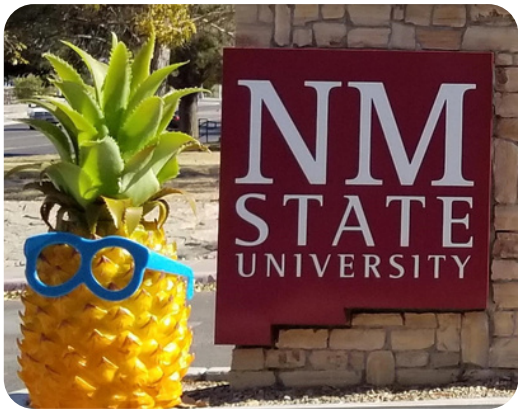
How can we be of service? Contact us for:

- Virtual or in person presentations on topics such as career explorations, resume and interview skills, dining etiquette and cultural explorations.
- Planning campus visits to NMSU!
- Attending Career and College Fairs in your schools.

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## Meet Pete the Pineapple

What is the significance of pineapples related to our program at the School of HRTM? Dating back to the 18th century, **the pineapple is the international symbol of hospitality** intended to honor and welcome a guest. Embodying this symbolism, since 2019 Pete the Pineapple has helped teach about the meaning of hospitality traveling the world to remind others of all of the hospitality careers, opportunities and an appreciation for those who serve us in these areas of industry on behalf of our program.




# Alumni Spotlight



## Antonia Roybal-Mack

A native of Mora, New Mexico, Antonia's success story began with a strong work ethic and community principles instilled at a young age. When she got to NMSU, "I surrounded myself with smart people who were positive influences and taught me that NMSU alumni can compete anywhere at the highest levels." She earned a B.S. in Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (HRTM) in 2003. Antonia credits many people as mentors, but her older brother instructed her that the one mission in college was to get straight As. "He taught me it's okay to have dirty clothes in the hamper, but never okay not to do the work." While working at the Department of Agriculture she was encouraged to apply for the NMSU Student Regent position, for which she was selected. In that role Antonia learned the Ruth Bader Ginsburg principle that "women belong in all places where decisions are being made." Six years after graduating from the University of New Mexico School of Law, Antonia founded Roybal-Mack & Cordova, P.C. She was the first female founder of a mass tort practice in the nation and the only one in the state, spurred by the 2022 wildfire disaster in which an out-of-control prescribed burn scorched almost 350,000 acres of her hometown. Antonia has represented thousands of claimants for more than a billion dollars in recovery damages, successfully lobbied for legislation benefiting wildfire victims, and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Center of Southwest Culture–Mora Fire Fund, which she founded and chairs. Antonia also holds a Master of Laws from Texas A&M University. Her list of legal accolades is long and includes the 2024 Albuquerque Bar Association Attorney of the Year, the American Bar Association "On the Rise" award, the 2010 New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association Outstanding Young Lawyer award, and Albuquerque Business Weekly Women of Influence award. Being a champion for the underdog is a key tenet of Antonia's career, and her law firm's motto is "Work Until You Win." She never met a cause she didn't like: "Ending suffering is important." She serves on the board of the Presbyterian Ear Institute and is equally passionate about kids' activities, supporting 4-H at the local county fairs, and "community-at-large work" such as assisting a special needs orphanage in Belize. Antonia has stayed involved with NMSU. She established the HRTM Alumni Endowed Scholarship in 2016 and is a former board member for the College of ACES HRTM alumni board and the NMSU Foundation. Her advice for students? "Intellect and emotions work inversely. If you are emotional about a problem, you are not solving it. Focus on solving the problem at hand, not how you feel about it. Then, cry all you want—just get it done." Antonia was honored as the College of ACES Distinguished Alumni in the Fall of 2024, an award representing excellence, integrity and leadership.

Read the full article at https://alwaysanaggie.org/alumni/awards/.