



NMSU Library News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TO:

Library Seeks Match for \$75,000 Humanities Challenge Grant Funding

As reported in the January 1998 *Citations*, the NMSU Library and the University Museum joined with NMSU's College of Arts and Sciences to submit a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant program for the establishment of a Southwest and Border Cultures Institute on the NMSU campus. The proposal, the brainchild of Scott Rushforth of NMSU's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, was successful, and the \$450,000 grant was awarded to NMSU in November 1998. Of this \$450,000, the Library will receive \$75,000 for an endowed fund for library acquisitions, which it must match 3 to 1 with \$225,000 of nonfederal money by October 31, 2002.

Library staff members are working to meet the match through activities such as phonathons, mailings, programs, events, additional grant proposals, opportunities for gifts, and legislative initiatives. Your help is needed to help them meet their goal of \$225,000 over three years. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to support a large library project that will make a real difference in the study of Southwest border humanities, and serve as a national model for other humanities programs. The award is one of only ten challenge grants given by the NEH to U.S. colleges and universities in 1998, and was the largest such award with two others given to the University of Notre Dame and the University of Nebraska. It is also one of the largest grants for research in the humanities and social sciences ever received at NMSU.

According to Reed Dasenbrock, Director of the Arts and Sciences Research Center and project director, and Cynthia Hoffmann, project development officer, the Institute will promote humanities research, education, and outreach, with special emphasis on understanding and maintaining the unique multicultural heritage of our region. The Institute will bring together the Library, the Museum, and several departments for a broad, interdisciplinary focus on how Native American, Hispanic, Anglo, and other cultures have converged in the border Southwest. No funds will be used for construction.

In order to make the Institute a reality, the Library and its partners are committed to meeting the

challenge of matching the NEH funding with nonfederal money 3 to 1 by October 31, 2002, to establish an endowment of \$1,800,000 for the Institute's ongoing support. If the Library is successful in its 3 to 1 match of its \$75,000, the resulting \$300,000 will go toward an endowed fund for library acquisitions from which \$15,000 in earnings will be available annually in mini-grants to researchers for the purchase of library materials to support humanities research and outreach activities in Southwest and border cultures.

Thanks to the Library's loyal friends and donors, the Library has built a respected program of humanities acquisitions, outreach, and research services, which will blend seamlessly with the activities of the Institute. Its Special Collections includes classic works on Southwest and border history and literature, a Southwestern children's book collection, and a Western women's collection. The Rio Grande Historical Collections contains millions of pages of primary historical source material, including letters, photographs, catalogs, and records from the Southwestern U.S. and Northern Mexico. The Library's new Borderlands Collection contains collections of Latin American materials, notably literature, many of which cannot be found in other U.S. libraries.

New acquisitions for these collections, made possible by the Southwest Border Cultures Institute Endowed Fund for Library Acquisitions, will provide more unique and pertinent resources to support Southwest and border humanities research in this region. In addition, outreach or "humanities extension" activities such as lectures, exhibitions, reference and research services, and an Institute web page will enhance the Library's partnership with humanities scholars in bringing our Southwestern and border heritage and cultures to the people of New Mexico. For more information, please contact Jeanette Smith, the Library's Grants/University Relations Officer, at 646-7492.

Here's How You Can Help Build the Southwest and Border Cultures Institute Fund for Library Acquisitions

Yes! I want to support the Library's participation in the Southwest and Border Cultures Institute (SBCI) with a generous donation to fund 89013, the SBCI/NEH Endowed Fund for Library Acquisitions. (Print and mail.)

Name:	ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR:
Address:	_____ \$1,000 _____ \$500
City:	_____ \$250 _____ \$100
State:	_____ \$50 _____ \$Other
Zip code:	

Please make your check payable to the NMSU Foundation, and mail to:

Barbara Hart, Administrative Office, NMSU Library
P.O. Box 30006, MSC 3475, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8006.

A gift of \$100 entitles you to membership in the Mil Gracias Society, a gift of \$500 entitles you to membership as a Mil Gracias Investor, and a gift of \$1,000 or more entitles you to membership in the President's Associates. Thank you so much for your support!