



NMSU Library News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NMSU Library Read-Aloud to Celebrate Literary Heritage

The New Mexico State University Library will celebrate the literary heritage of the Borderland during a read-aloud event during National Library Week entitled “Many Voices, One Nation @ Your Library.” The readings will take place on Monday, April 11, in front of Zuhl Library.

Twenty-five local “celebrity” readers will read aloud passages from works that represent their culture or heritage, or demonstrate their love of literature and reading. The festivities will kick-off at 11:30 a.m. when the first reader, NMSU President Michael Martin, will be introduced by NMSU Library Dean Elizabeth Titus.



NMSU President Michael Martin to participate in Library read-aloud. Photo, NMSU Library

Other readers include NMSU officials, student leaders, international students, student athletes, and faculty and staff. A new reader will be introduced every five minutes until 1:30 p.m. “Read” posters created with the photos of participants will provide a colorful backdrop to the festivities. Refreshments will be served.

There will be similar read-alouds on the same day elsewhere in Las Cruces and at libraries all over the U.S during this coast-to-coast celebration of reading. Norice Lee, the head of the Library’s Access Services Department, is the coordinator of this unique national initiative of the American Library Association.

Lee said, “This event is a wonderful example of the diversity found at NMSU.”

The Doña Ana Branch Community College (DABCC) is also hosting “Many Voices” events. On April 11, DABCC students, faculty and staff will read from their favorite works, including their own writings, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Student Commons area of the DABCC Espina campus. This event is co-sponsored by the DABCC Library & Technology Services Division, Associated Students and Cultural Diversity Committee. There will be refreshments and music.



A second DABCC event focusing on readings from Spanish-language works will be held the same day at the Gadsden Education Center.

Lee is working with many other event organizers at the local and national levels on the read-alouds as well as on a “nation’s booklist” of representative multicultural works. The booklist will showcase the diverse voices that exist in our nation and its literature. New Mexico’s representative works in the booklist are *Arrow to the Sun* by Gerald McDermott and *Bless Me, Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya.

The “Many Voices, One Nation @ Your Library” initiative was envisioned by Carol Brey-Casiano, the director of the El Paso Public Library and current President of the American Library Association.

Brey-Casiano said, “The program celebrates the unifying role that libraries play in building a literate nation.” For more information on the DABCC read-alouds, contact Molly McGetrick at (505) 527-7556 or mollymc@nmsu.edu. For more information on the NMSU Library read-aloud, contact Lee at (505) 646-5091 or nlee@lib.nmsu.