The activities of APA UNM are focused on connecting students to the American Planning Association. APA UNM has prioritized efforts to engage student members in a variety of programming to develop connections, provide leadership roles, and introduce new knowledge and tools. APA UNM has hosted AICP information sessions, discussions on relevant planning issues, committees, bicycle tours, and volunteer opportunities.

Student involvement on a state level has fostered meaningful relationships between students and professional planners. Student representatives attend APA NM monthly board meetings with a voting voice. The APA NM strategic plan was recently reviewed and included student feedback. Students also volunteer with state activities and events—especially during the Annual State Meeting and State Planning Conference. Each spring, APA UNM hosts a Meet the Planners event in partnership with APA NM.

APA UNM has also made efforts to connect with architecture and landscape architecture students—encouraging collaboration and cultivating community within the School of Architecture & Planning at the University of New Mexico.

Programming and participation has increased significantly over the last year. After several years of low involvement from student members, the current APA UNM board is seeking to develop leadership roles that will assist with smoother board transitions and the development of dynamic opportunities for engagement. APA UNM has developed regular and special events for the purpose of promoting membership and participation. The board is actively engaging other student members through personal invitations to volunteer with contributions of both knowledge and skill.

Our events and activities demonstrate our growing relationship to APA. If selected as an Outstanding PSO, APA UNM will use award funds to support student attendees at the National Planning Conference in New Orleans and develop new programming.