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DATE: January 13, 2023

TO: NMSU faculty, staff, students, and administrators

FROM: Dan E. Arvizu, NMSU System Chancellor

SUBJECT: Update on graduate assistant pay and benefits

As has [previously been reported](#), NMSU has reached an agreement with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, the union representing NMSU's graduate assistants, and the Board of Regents ratified that contract at a special meeting in December.

As part of the collective bargaining agreement, all graduate assistants who are on an active assistantship contract on Jan. 16, 2023, will receive a 6.8 percent compensation increase. All assistantship contracts effective after Jan. 16 will be paid in accordance with the university's salary schedules, which have been increased by 6.8 percent.

The contract with the union also includes enhanced scholarship assistance to help with tuition coverage. It includes a guarantee that all graduate assistants at .50 FTE or higher will receive scholarships of at least \$650 or two credit hours of tuition, including any differential tuition, pro-rated based on the total FTE of their appointment for those with less than a .50 FTE. Students who already receive tuition scholarships at the \$650 amount or greater are not eligible for this assistance. We anticipate providing this enhanced scholarship funding to eligible graduate assistants through Scholar Dollar\$ as soon as mid-February 2023.

A one-time \$100 payment will also be provided for international students holding assistantships to help offset increased health insurance costs. More information about these payments will be available in the coming weeks, and eligible international students will receive this payment later in the spring semester.

Graduate assistants with questions about these changes should contact their union representatives. Hiring managers with questions about the changes should contact Human Resource Services at teamhrs@nmsu.edu.