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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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There's still time to get a tuition-free head start on college with the UNM-LA Summer Bridge Program

Get a jumpstart on college this summer on the UNM-LA campus as part of the Summer Bridge Program. The program is specifically designed to prepare students for the challenges of college life. Thanks to a LANL Foundation STEM grant, the program waives tuition. Students who graduate from high school or receive a GED in 2010 are eligible. Classes begin June 7.

"The students are entering college as a cohort with other new students. They quickly form friendships that support them in starting college work," said Academic Advisor Jackie La New. "In the summer, when classes are smaller, students are able to get more personal attention from the advisors and from their teachers."

Due to the LANL Foundation's STEM focus, this summer, the program will feature a math track and a tech track. All students will take University Studies 101, a college success course stressing such themes as independence, relationships, time management, stress management and study skills. In addition Summer Bridge students in the math track will also choose an arts course (ceramics, photography or Introduction to opera) while those in the tech track will choose from Robotics or Photovoltaics and an appropriate level English course.

UNM-LA student Rhiannon Gonzales took part in Summer Bridge in 2009.

"I got a good start out of Summer Bridge," she said. "I wouldn't have understood what college was about nearly as well without it."

In addition to free tuition, Gonzales appreciated getting six of her college credits out of the way in only eight weeks.

"I learned a lot in my math class. I grasped the concepts fast and understood them better than I did in high school even though the time involved was a lot shorter," she said. "The small class size was really helpful."

UNM-LA will continue to accept applications until the program is filled. Download an application at www.la.unm.edu or stop by the Student Services Center, downstairs in Building 2 on the UNM-LA campus.

Contact Jackie La New (663-3402) for more information about Summer Bridge 2010.