

## CLASS OF 2025

# *Outstanding Graduate*



### **CRISTIAN ESTRADA**

College of Health, Education and  
Social Transformation

Cimarron, NM, native Cristian Estrada is graduating with a B.S. in kinesiology with a concentration in exercise science and a minor in early childhood education.

His parents are both educators, but beyond playing basketball, he didn't know what he wanted to do in college. During a high school internship with physical therapist Dr. Kori Mannon '93, he met a 2nd-grade girl with a condition that severely impacted her vision and gross motor skills development. Dr. Mannon was working with her on these motor skills to increase both her abilities and independence. When Cristian first met the child, "she was scared of the playground, but, through therapy, she could hang from the

**"My goal has always been to make a positive impact and live a life beyond myself. My degree from NMSU is my first step."**

monkey bars, fully engaged and playing." He adds, "That's when I knew what I wanted to do for my career."

Cristian has interned with Dr. Mannon for six years, including in the Deming Public Schools. She says of Cristian, "He is not just shadowing me to fulfill requirements; he is taking a deep dive into what it really means to be a contributing team member in educational and health care settings to better the lives of children."

Cristian committed himself to his academics, maintaining a 3.92 GPA, qualifying as a Crimson Scholar for four years, and recognized on the Dean's List three times. As a sophomore, he was selected by his department to be a Kinesiology Peer Advisory Leader, and he also became involved in the Kinesiology Club, elected president during his junior and senior years. He served as the HEST Student Council president, and in this capacity served on the ASNMSU Elections Board and Council of Councils.

As a student worker at the NMSU Foundation, Cristian was a spokesperson for the 2024 Founders Day | 1888 Minutes of Giving campaign, and he's participated in ASNMSU community events including Keep State Great and The Big Event.

Cristian's next big event is heading off to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center to pursue a Doctor of Physical Therapy specializing in pediatric therapy. ▲