



2025
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
COLLEGE
OF HEST

AISHA JONES, DNP '03



“Keep pushing forward and you’ll get where you need to be. Success isn’t instant. Work hard, and you will value it.”

—Aisha Jones, DNP '03

From the time she was a child, Aisha Jones, DNP, knew she’d be a nurse: “I had an accident-prone sister, and I always knew instinctively how to assess the problem and what to do.” She started her career early: As a high school junior, Aisha began the nursing program at the Career Enrichment Center and Early College Academy in Albuquerque. “Instead of morning classes, I was already seeing patients.”

Today, as Director for Advance Practice Specialty Providers and Psychiatric Advance Practice Providers at the University of New Mexico Hospital, Aisha oversees 75 nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Through her own business, Mobile Teach, she offers certification courses in lifesaving techniques.

Aisha has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from NMSU, a master’s in nursing science from the University of New Mexico (UNM), and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Alabama. Her certifications include family nurse practitioner and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, and she received the UNM College of Nursing 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Both of her parents attended NMSU, so it was Aisha’s natural choice for nursing school. Her father, Albert “Slab” Jones, is in the NM State Athletics Hall of Fame, and her mother, Dr. Gena Jones, was the 2007 Distinguished Alumna from the College of Health and Social Services and established the Gena W. Jones Current Use Scholarship.

While at NMSU, Aisha was part of a tight-knit community that had fun — they played hide-and-seek across campus — and looked out for one another. After graduating from NMSU, Aisha set her sights on a terminal degree, noting that nurses are still dealing with the aftermath of Covid: “Many left the profession, leaving more work for those of us who stayed. I want to support those coming in.” She adds, “I’m proud of reaching my goals and not giving up when faced with barriers along the way. Plus, to see the excitement in my grandparents’ faces when I received my doctorate was amazing.”

Aisha uses her nursing and leadership skills extensively as a volunteer. On a mission to Kenya, she provided medical care to a community that had lost its only doctor. “For 10 days, I sat on a couch in the middle of a field and saw 258 people. I had a stethoscope and a box of meds, and I had to be creative to give the best care possible. It was powerful, too, because they had never seen a Black woman doing what I was doing.”

Closer to home, Aisha served four years as vice president for the Links Incorporated Albuquerque chapter and remains involved. She is also part of the What’s Important Now service group in Albuquerque that provides families and incarcerated people with food and gifts for Christmas. Recently, Aisha wrote a young adult book, *We All Don’t Get Cake*, honoring the many hardworking leaders who are never celebrated.

Aisha’s advice to today’s students? “Keep pushing forward and you’ll get where you need to be. Success isn’t instant. Work hard, and you will value it.” ▲