Legacy Ranch – A Plan for Sustaining Our Military and Their Families

Statement of Purpose
New Mexico State University is the land-grant institution serving the people of New Mexico. At NMSU, service to our military and our state is an integral part of our mission. A multi-purpose, fully functioning entity on acres of prime university land, Legacy Ranch is conceived as a state-of-the-art university-community partnership. Imagine a nature-based therapeutic setting where animals, agriculture and the outdoors provide the backdrop for rehabilitation treatment and reintegration services for our military and their families – as well as a place for discovery for our faculty and students! NMSU’s outreach and extension services will provide the infrastructure for this military safety-net – an array of collaborating organizations that will offer evidence-based and innovative interventions in a personal and family reintegration approach to active duty military, veterans, and their families. Nothing like Legacy Ranch exists in America today. It will combine warrior and family storytelling with equine environments of relaxation and healing.

Collaborators in Discovery
In a unique collaboration with our state’s military serving institutions, NMSU will provide the land and infrastructure for service delivery and coordination, as well as small business incubation and implementation. An array of community-based agencies, in collaboration with NMSU faculty, will provide many of these services – as they understand the impact military culture has on the therapeutic relationship. Legacy Ranch will also provide faculty and students from colleges across NMSU with unique opportunities for discovery!

Target Goals and Objectives
- Create collaborative partnerships that are unique, profitable and sustainable
- Connect community-based businesses with service opportunities and education/job training/support
- Provide our military and their families a safe alternative to existing treatment options
- Promote innovative, entrepreneurial solutions to our military and their families’ challenges
- Build a formal mechanism of discovery for faculty and student scholarly activities and service
- Maximize NMSU’s potential impact on the health and well-being of our military and their families

Project Components
- A Nature-Based Approach: Access to open land, agriculture, horses, cows, farm animals, lakes, and trails
- Community Engagement Component: Community farm-to-table garden, arts (theatre), crafts, trainings, ongoing lecture series seminars, arts and crafts exhibits, etc.
- Complementary and Alternative Treatment Modalities: Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, Embodied Restorying Process, Therapeutic Horsemanship/Hippotherapy, Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, Expressive Arts Therapies, Homeopathy, Acupuncture, Massage, Yoga, Meditation, Dance, Psychodrama, among others
- Continuum of Housing Options: Therapeutic community, individual and family cabins
- Culturally-Informed Healing Approaches: Curanderismo, sweat lodge, labyrinth, fire pit, etc.
- Teaching, Scholarship, and Service: Opportunities for faculty and students from all NMSU colleges
- Wrap-Around Services: For New Mexico’s military communities including case management and family support

Originating from NMSU graduate students, the vision of Legacy Ranch offers a unique and bold solution to the growing challenges faced by New Mexico’s active duty military, veterans, and their families. Members of a military family communication and deployment research team (Drs. Boje, Whittlesey-Jerome, Flora, Rosile, Hacker, Downes, and others) are developing the core vision of Legacy Ranch – a glimmer of innovation and possibility for discovery in the hearts and minds of Alumni and current and future Aggies in New Mexico and beyond!