

CLASS OF FALL 2022

Outstanding Graduates

NOWARA FARAJ ABUDABBOUS – Ph.D., Special Education

“No matter how difficult or challenging a child’s situation may be, they should all be given the opportunity to thrive.”

Nowara Faraj Abudabbous will receive her Ph.D. in Special Education from New Mexico State University this fall after earning a master's degree in Learning Difficulties in 2017, and receiving a graduate certificate in autism spectrum disorders this past spring.

Born and raised in Misurata, Libya, Nowara chose New Mexico State University because she considers it to have the best program to prepare graduate students for success in the field of special education. Previously, she received a bachelor's degree from Misurata University in Libya and her master's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso. She has a passion for serving individuals with special needs, and hopes to serve them effectively by educating the next generation of educators.

During her post-graduate years, Nowara played a significant role in supporting the Black Students Association at NMSU and serving as a member of the NAACP (2021-present). She also participated in NMSU orientation for first-year students and their families (Fall 2022), volunteered at Aggie Cupboard, and supported the Las Cruces community garden by growing vegetables to be distributed to members of the community.

Nowara believes schools at all levels should hire highly qualified special education teachers who are willing to support students with individualized needs. Because special education teachers face many obstacles in assisting their students, she hopes to work as a professor inspiring them with the techniques to succeed.

Following graduation, Nowara will apply for a college professorship to teach special education teachers how to work with their students more effectively. She also hopes to facilitate a professional development workshop to help special ed teachers gain confidence in their capabilities.

Nowara is committed to pursuing diversity, inclusion, equality, and equity as she motivates others to develop positive attitudes toward individuals with special needs. She always looks forward to improving the culture surrounding special needs education by making positive changes and opening new doors for her colleagues. Her professors believe Nowara will bring urgent knowledge and significant value to the students and teachers of tomorrow.