

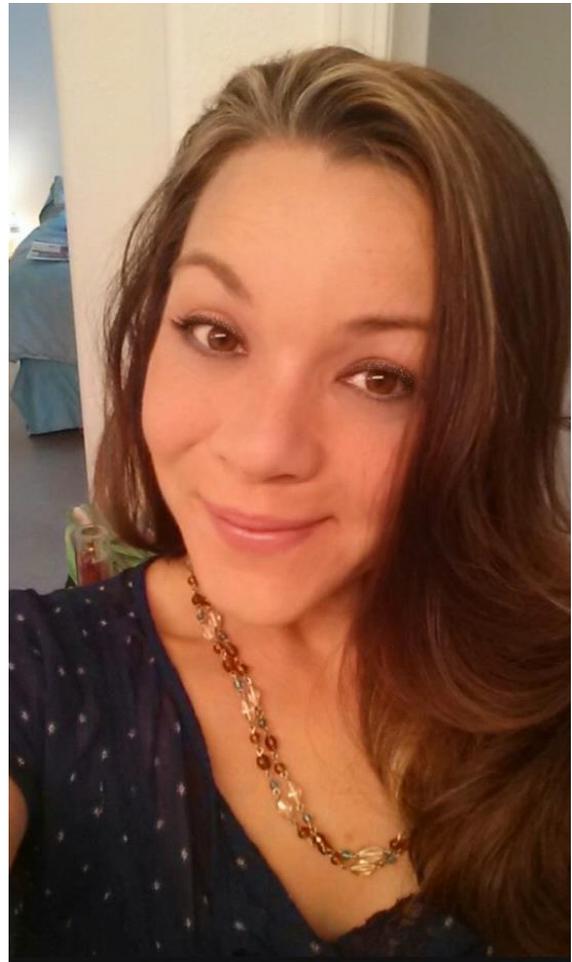


**University of New Mexico Member-in-Training Representative
Jamie Smith – jamie999@unm.edu**

Ms. Jamie Smith completed her B.S. in psychology in 2014 and M.S. in 2016 at Missouri State University. She began pursuing her doctoral degree at UNM in August 2016 and her advisor noted that she is an outstanding student. Ms. Smith's research is in the area of eating disorders and body image, including weight loss, dieting in college, and the impact of the mother-daughter relationship on girls' body image. She feels that the issues and dilemmas that face the future of psychology are best addressed by active involvement in policy and advocacy. She is passionate about the field of psychology and as a Member-in-Training Representative she is advocating for changes on behalf of graduate students and making vital professional connections.

**New Mexico State University
Member-in-Training Representative
Violeta "Blanca" Jaure - violeta@nmsu.edu**

Violeta Blanca Jaure is a native New Mexican, who is a second-year doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology Program at NMSU. She attained her M.A. in Counseling and Educational Psychology from NMSU in 2008. She has been practicing with a LADAC and LPCC license in rural New Mexico for about 9 years and thus understands the complexities and challenges of this work. She is trained and certified in a variety of approaches and techniques to treat substance abuse, trauma, and multicultural populations. She has worked in multiple community mental health centers as well as school-based health centers with children and adolescents. Her research is focused on mindfulness, contemplative practices with middle school students, poverty, resiliency, and perceptions of mental health care within rural, high risk adolescent populations. Ms. Jaure expresses a strong desire to help build a support system for graduate students and early career psychologists. She feels peer support is paramount to maintaining self-care, particularly for professionals in rural areas. As a Member-in-Training Representative, Ms. Jaure is motivated to change policy and advocate for social justice.



**APAGS Campus Representative for UNM and
APAGS State Advocacy Coordinator for New Mexico
Melissa Pielech – mpielech@unm.edu**



Ms. Melissa Pielech completed her B.S. in Art Therapy at Lesley College and her M.S. at Lesley University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in Art Therapy and Clinical Mental Health Counseling in 2012. Ms. Pielech is now in her 4th year of the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program at UNM. Melissa's research focus is on examination of opioid use with pediatric populations and evaluating caregiver functioning in the context of pediatric pain. Her dissertation research aims to quantify rates of opioid prescribing to youth in New Mexico, as well as characterize individual factors and longitudinal outcomes (e.g. morbidity and mortality) associated with receipt of single versus repeat prescriptions. Clinically, Melissa is passionate about delivering behaviorally based interventions to treat pediatric pain. Most recently, she was awarded a fellowship through the UNM Center for Regional Studies to support her dissertation research. She was the Clinical Graduate Student Representative at UNM for 2 years and attends departmental Clinical Faculty meetings to raise student concerns and share student perspectives on pertinent issues. She also received an award for assisting the Director of Clinical Training in attaining APA re-accreditation. Ms. Pielech will use her appointment to the APAGS State Advocacy Coordinator position (through APA's Graduate Student branch) to increase collaboration between NMPA and UNM, advocate for graduate student issues, and improve mental health treatment in New Mexico. She hopes her involvement in the legislative process will allow her to learn more about policy work and eventually will assist her rise to a leadership role in Division 54, the Society of Pediatric Psychology.

**University of New Mexico
Member in Training Representative
Isabel Solis – isolis@unm.edu**

Ms. Isabel Solis completed her B.S. in psychology at UNM and is in the process of completing her M.S. at UNM. Her research is in the area of Pediatric Neuroscience, including the biological and hereditary basis of neurodevelopmental disorders. More specifically, she is studying risk factors of social bullying and its relationship to developmental psychopathology. She is bilingual, has co-chaired the Diversity Organization! at UNM, and is interested in remaining in New Mexico to work to remedy the health disparities that persist. She hopes her research will produce policy change. As a Member-In-Training Representative, Ms. Solis is focused on enhancing her leadership skills, effecting change, and encouraging fellow students to become more involved in NMPA.

