

Leah R. Romero

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Experience

Freelance writing, New Mexico

January 2024 - Present

Collaborating with various news outlets for reported articles. New Mexico outlets include New Mexico Magazine, The Bite, El Palacio Magazine and The Las Cruces Bulletin. Topics range from food and business to general Las Cruces news to statewide legislative impacts during the annual New Mexico Legislative sessions.

Other freelance writing projects include media relations work with New Mexico Performing Arts Society, Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, El Paso Symphony Orchestra, Roswell Symphony Orchestra and individual musicians.

Source New Mexico, New Mexico — Staff Reporter

June 2024 - May 2025

Placed with the news outlet through a returning fellowship with the New Mexico Local News Fund. Working as a staff reporter covering the topics of health care, child welfare, reproductive health care and aging topics in New Mexico with a focus on the southern half of the state. I also assist the rest of the newsroom in cases of breaking news, such as natural disasters.

Las Cruces Sun-News, Las Cruces, NM — Trending Reporter

June 2020 - January 2024

Reported on arts, business, culture, entertainment, public safety and politics for the largest daily New Mexico newspaper part of the USA Today Network.

Covered the local film industry, human interest features, crime and area politics. Wrote several monthly series profiling local notable residents, area landmarks and local hidden gem businesses.

New Mexico In Depth, Las Cruces, NM — Academic Fellow

September 2019 - April 2020

Academic fellow reporter for an investigative news outlet encompassing the entire state of New Mexico. One of two southern New Mexico reporters with the outlet at the time.

Wrote articles focused on climate change, specifically the impact on New Mexico's famous chile crop and electric vehicles. Stories appeared in the *Las Cruces Sun-News* and other Gannett-owned outlets in the state.

Education

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM — Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communications

August 2016 - May 2020

Graduated with honors and 3.9 GPA. Recognized as a Crimson Scholar all eight semesters – top academic achieving students.

Earned minor degrees in Government and Music.

Professional Development

Leadership Las Cruces, Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce

September 2022 - June 2023

Journalists in Aging Fellows Program, Gerontological Society of America and Journalists Network on Generations

2024

Skills

- Proficiency in AP Style
- Copy editing
- Social media management
- Digital photography
- Adobe Photoshop, InDesign
- Website design

The Round Up, Las Cruces, NM — *News Editor*

March 2018 - May 2020

Writer and editor for the New Mexico State University student newspaper. Prior positions with the outlet include staff, feature and political writer.

Covered campus events; campus, local and state politics; student profiles, campus safety; and university administration. As an editor, mentored writers on the reporting process and copy edited their writing work.

White Sands Missile Range Public Affairs Office, Las Cruces, NM — *Summer Intern*

May 2018 - July 2020

Wrote human interest and local news stories for the U.S. Army installation's monthly newspaper, *The Missile Ranger*. Covered Change of Command ceremonies and staff features. Stories featured in the *Las Cruces Sun-News* and *Las Cruces Bulletin*.

Non-Profit Boards

Mesilla Valley Jazz and Blues Society – Board Member

March 2024 - Present

Animal Companions of Las Cruces – Board Member

June 2024 - Present