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HNS AS

Garcia's death a shock to fellow students at NMJC

NEWS-SUN STAFF REPORT

News that a student at New Mexico Junior College had been killed only days into the start of the new semester sent chills through the campus of about 5,000 students.

Adding to the shock for the NMJC campus was knowing that 26-year-old Elizabeth Garcia had been abducted and

murdered within sight of the campus.

Bill Morrill, director of security and emergency management at NMJC, said the campus had beefed up their nighttime patrols after Garcia's death.

He also said the college had offered grief counseling to faculty or students.

"This really strikes home for faculty and staff," Morrill said.

"This was a young woman who sat next to them in class for a couple of days and maybe didn't get a chance to know her. ... Even though this didn't happen on campus, it's a fellow student."

Classes had only met twice, but Morrill said faculty

recalled her as quiet in class those few days.

"But that's the way most students are until they get comfortable with the instructor," Morrill said.

He also said the increased nighttime patrols would continue for the foreseeable future.