Alumni Guide

Navigating Our School's New Name

THE JAMES & GAIL ELLIS
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

Formerly the
Anderson School of Management

On May 8, 2026, our business school was renamed The James & Gail Ellis School of Business Leadership in recognition of a $30 million gift - the largest from an individual or couple in UNM's 135-year history. Your degree, your diploma, your transcript, and the University of New Mexico all remain exactly the same. This guide shows you how to talk about the change and keep your professional profile consistent.

Talking About the Name Change

Frame it as a milestone.

Try: "My school received the largest gift in UNM's history - $30M from alumnus Jim Ellis, former dean of USC's Marshall School - and was renamed in recognition."

Renaming after a naming gift signals institutional strength (think Booth at Chicago, Ross at Michigan, Fuqua at Duke). The Anderson family has publicly and warmly endorsed the change, so you can reference the school's heritage with pride.

Job Applications & Background Checks

This is routine and well understood by employers. Verification services (HireRight, Sterling, National Student Clearinghouse) match on the University of New Mexico - not the school-level name - so a renamed school does not create a mismatch.

If a verifier ever flags the difference, point them to the official announcement at news.unm.edu, or request a verification letter from our office. You never have to "pick a side": listing either name with a short bridge is honest and standard practice.

On LinkedIn

Select the current official school page so you stay in the alumni network, then use the Description field to bridge both names - this keeps you searchable whether a recruiter looks for "Anderson" or "Ellis":

Graduated from the Anderson School of Management, renamed The James & Gail Ellis School of Business Leadership in 2026 following the largest gift in UNM history.

On Your Resume

Anchor on University of New Mexico — the degree-granting institution, which never changed — and bridge the school name in parentheses.

Either format is correct:
University of New Mexico, Anderson School of Management (now The James & Gail Ellis School of Business Leadership) — MBA, 2015

University of New Mexico, The James & Gail Ellis School of Business Leadership (formerly Anderson School of Management) — MBA, 2015

Prefer a minimal footprint?
"University of New Mexico — MBA, 2015" is always safe.

The 30-Second Version

Same University, same degree, stronger reputation. Say "Ellis, formerly Anderson." List University of New Mexico on applications, bridge the school name in parentheses, and add both names to your LinkedIn description. No discrepancy - verifiers match on the University.