Three-hundred forty-one (341) attendees were present for the 2015 New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation (New Mexico AMP) Student Research Conference, including university and community college students and faculty, in addition to high school juniors, seniors, and advisors from the New Mexico Math, Engineering, Science Achievement, Inc. (New Mexico MESA) program and local high school students from the ReNUWIt (Re-Inventing the Nation’s Urban Water Infrastructure) program. The statewide event took place on October 2nd at the Las Cruces Convention Center adjacent to New Mexico State University (NMSU).

Dr. Saundra McGuire, the Director Emerita of the Center for Academic Success and retired Assistant Vice Chancellor and Professor of Chemistry at Louisiana State University, presented the Breakfast Keynote Address that kicked off the conference. Her talk, entitled, “Great STEM Researchers Are Developed (Not Born!),” focused on the skills that researchers need, including cognitive, affective, and psychological domains, with a primary focus on her area of expertise, the cognitive domain. Dr. McGuire highlighted metacognitive skills and strategies, explaining that metacognition is the ability to think about one’s own thinking, problem solving, mental processing, and judgment of learning level. She provided relevant and useful strategies for students, like keeping the right mindset and the use of specific reading comprehension techniques, among others. She also discussed some of the barriers students might encounter on their academic journey, including facing the miscalculations of others who are negative about their potential. Dr. McGuire provided stories and illustrations that made her talk both engaging and inspirational, leaving the audience with the feeling that anything is possible, with clear strategic plans and focused engagement of our minds!

At the Conference Luncheon, the new director of New Mexico AMP, Dr. Phil King, presented a tribute to Louis Stokes, who recently passed away. Louis Stokes was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (D-OH) in 1968, the year that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. Representative Stokes was also the founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the first Black American to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. NSF’s AMP program was renamed Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation in 2002. Dr. King informed the audience of the many accomplishments of Louis Stokes, and time was provided for the students to write a short letter to Representative Stokes’ surviving family to reflect the impact that the New Mexico AMP program has had on their lives and future careers. The writings were collected and will be bound in an album to send to the wife of Louis Stokes and his family.

New Mexico State Representative Sarah Maestas Barnes (R-Bernalillo County, District 15), gave the Luncheon Keynote Address. In her presentation, Representative Maestas Barnes motivated the student conference participants to make the most of their academic and future professional goals. To help the students relate better, she shared her own academic and professional journey. A 12th generation New Mexican and the first in her family to earn a college degree, Maestas Barnes shared how her parents taught her the importance of hard work, family values and tradition, community, and education. Because of her family’s support and encouragement, she was not afraid to dream big — she attended law school and lives out her passion by representing children and adults with physical and mental disabilities as well as advocating for the rights of Spanish and Mexican Land Grant heirs. Representative Maestas Barnes discussed educa-

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I am honored and delighted to be the new Director of New Mexico’s Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP). New Mexico AMP’s recently retired Founding Director, Dr. Ricardo Jacquez, leaves big shoes to fill, with a 23 year record of success in the Alliance. I have worked in several programs with New Mexico AMP over the years, and I am a big believer in both fostering student success and increasing the diversity of our nation’s STEM workforce.

I have worked with several hundred students in my career, and while that population has the qualities of a continuum, it is made up of individuals, and many very personally rewarding relationships have come from our shared experience. On the other hand, I consider diversity in our STEM workforce to be a matter of national interest and even security. If we as a nation are to maintain our global competitive advantage in technology and innovation, we are going to need to broaden our view of the possible. That requires diverse intellects, which requires diverse people in STEM.

I received my Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. I then spent two years in the Peace Corps as a Civil and Agricultural Engineer in Malawi, Africa. It was a life-changing experience. On my return to the States, I went to graduate school at Colorado State University, where I earned a Master’s and Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering. My first job out of grad school is my current one at NMSU, where I have been a faculty member for 26 years.

I am currently the John Clark Distinguished Professor and Associate Department Head in Civil Engineering here at NMSU. I have taught courses from freshman to graduate level, focusing on water resources and agricultural engineering, computing, professional development, and even one art class. I also worked with my colleagues on the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Water Resources Technician Training Program, which, for 18 years, brought Native Americans from tribes all over the country to NMSU for an intensive four-week training program. It was a very rewarding educational experience. As a graduate advisor, I have turned out nine Ph.D.s, and have three on the way.

In 2009, I took a sabbatical as a Science and Technology Policy Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). I was posted with the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Arlington, Virginia. The NSF provided a unique opportunity to see the politics of science and technology and to better understand the inner workings of NSF. When I returned, I served as Principal Investigator (PI) for Reaching the Pinnacle, an NSF- and State-funded regional alliance aimed at recruiting and retaining students with disabilities into STEM careers. This was another important diversity effort that yielded many successes.

I believe that my first duty in New Mexico AMP is to keep our successes going. We have very effective undergraduate research programs, namely the Undergraduate Research Scholar’s program (URS), the Summer Community College Opportunity for Research Experience (SCCORE) program, and of course, the annual state-wide conference that brings the New Mexico AMP-related research community together. I hope to develop more detailed and comprehensive data collection and analysis on these programs, particularly the URS and SCCORE. Based on my experience with NSF, in order to keep New Mexico AMP going and growing, we need to develop a research function within New Mexico AMP to give us more a conclusive and supportable understanding of AMP’s impacts and achievements of its goals and objectives. This higher resolution will better inform the future conduct of the existing programs and guide the development of new ones. I look forward to working with the New Mexico AMP staff, collaborators, Program Officer, and especially students, as I navigate my way through this new challenge and opportunity.
Great STEM Researchers Are Developed (Not Born!)  

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The importance of engineering research in New Mexico, which is a key to New Mexico’s economic success. She encouraged the students to also dream big and achieve high, motivating the students to not lose sight that anything is possible with determination and hard work.

Student research presentations took place throughout the day, with a total of 102 poster presenters, with 86 total posters presented (which included seven (7) team presentations). University and community college students presented in separate competitions, and high-school students who were part of the summer ReNUWIt Young Scholars, presented non-competitively.

University Poster Presentation Awardees include the following: First Place: Anneliese Trujillo, New Mexico State University; Second Place Tie: Edgar Ronquillo, Northern New Mexico College, and Margaret Turpin, University of New Mexico; and Third Place Tie: Isabella Acvedo-Rodriguez, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, and Joshua Gomez, New Mexico State University.

Community College Presentation Awardees include the following: First Place: Cody Tyler, Central New Mexico College; Second Place Tie: Team #1: Derek Kahklen, Joaquina Castillo, and Kyle Baker, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, and Team #2: Elijah Castillo and Tomczak Billie, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute; and Third Place Tie: Natalie Correa and Melissa Montoya, both from Central New Mexico College.

Three high-school students presented non-competitively: Edward Park, Esmeralda Lopez, and Eduardo Cazares.

Students viewed posters and met with NMSU faculty members during the University Research Council (URC) Poster Presentations, which were held concurrently with the New Mexico AMP Conference.

Dr. Kenneth Carroll, Assistant Professor of the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences at New Mexico State University, presented a seminar to the New Mexico MESA students entitled, “What Is In Your Water?” focused on the importance of water quality and quantity in New Mexico’s current drought conditions with the designer complexities of emerging contaminants. Dr. Carroll also discussed hot topics in environmental science and engineering, including hydraulic fracturing, induced seismicity, carbon sequestration and global warming, water scarcity, water reuse, contaminant remediation, and renewable energy. In the afternoon, Dr. Kenneth White, Regents Professor Emeritus in the Department of Civil Engineering at New Mexico State University, presented “How to Determine the Strength of a Bridge” to the New Mexico MESA students. In the seminar, Dr. White highlighted aging bridge infrastructure on highways and showcased the types of bridges most susceptible to deterioration or damage, emphasizing the importance of bridge safety inspections and safe load analysis.

Workshops were held for university and community college students in the morning of the conference. An International Student Panel Discussion entitled, “Broadening Students’ Global Perspectives,” was facilitated by Dr. Gary R. Lowe, Coordinator of Aggies Go Global Program and Program Operations Director in the NMSU College of Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Six NMSU student panelists shared how international experiences impacted their academic lives and professional aspirations. Dr. Heather Fitzgerald, Instructor in the Department of Biology and STEM Activities Coordinator at Central New Mexico Community College, presented “Using LinkedIn to Develop Your Professional Network.” In this relevant workshop, Dr. Fitzgerald went over how to create an online resume, and the power of the LinkedIn site as a professional development tool. A third workshop was presented by Dr. Brian Pasko, Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Eastern New Mexico University. In this workshop, Dr. Pasko introduced the idea of Mindsets proposed by C. Dweck in her book, Mindset: The New Psychology of Success. The workshop described the differences between a growth mindset and how a growth mindset can contribute to success in academia, career, and life.

Twenty-one (21) community college students from partner institutions attended the Professional Development Workshops the day before and after the conference. These pre- and post-conference workshops helped the community college students make the most of the conference experience. Students from seven (7) community colleges attended these workshops, including Central New Mexico Community College, Doña Ana Community College, Luna Community College, NMSU-Alamogordo Community College, NMSU-Carlisle Community College, Santa Fe Community College, and University of New Mexico-Taos.

Horizons Fall 2015
People, Places, and Things

Dr. Ricardo Jacquez, Founding Director of the New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation (New Mexico AMP), served as the New Mexico AMP Program’s director and Co-Principal Investigator from 1993-2015. Dr. Jacquez also served as Dean of the College of Engineering at New Mexico State University (NMSU) and as NMSU Interim Associate Provost and Interim Department Head of Civil Engineering. He retired from NMSU in July 2015 to relocate to California State University-Chico, where he currently serves as Dean of the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management (ECC). Dr. Jacquez, honored as Regents Professor of Civil and Geological Engineering, was the 2006 recipient of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). He was also honored as the 2012 recipient of the CADE Distinguished Service Award by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities’ Commission on Access, Diversity, and Excellence. Dr. Jacquez will be missed, but we wish him the best in his new job! Dr. J. Phillip King was recently appointed New Mexico AMP Project Director by NMSU Provost Dan Howard, New Mexico AMP Principal Investigator, and Dr. A. James Hicks, National Science Foundation (NSF) Program Officer. Find out more about Dr. King in the “Message from the Director” section of this newsletter.

Joe Doyle, will serve as the new Western New Mexico University (WNMU) Institutional Coordinator, replacing Kathy Sorrells. Joe has a B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology and a Minor in Chemistry from WNMU in Fall 2014. As an undergraduate, Joe was a top student in the Department of Natural Sciences and now works for the department as the Lab Director for a NSF Project that focuses on surveying and classifying fungal endophytes and studying the response to global warming. As the lab director, Joe’s mission is to promote students’ research experiences, to guide and mentor students, to help them ask the important research questions, and to help them pursue their research interests. His experience as a Lab Director correlates with his goals as the new WNMU IC, in that he hopes to inspire and develop student researchers to help them to view research as less daunting and more as an opportunity for professional development. In Summer 2015, Mr. Doyle will be coordinating the NOYCE project at WNMU, which is the Mathematics, Science, and Education Academy (MSEA) targeted at the training of STEM instructors and promoting a more effective learning environment in STEM classrooms. Outside of his work at WNMU, Joe is an audio engineer and enjoys making albums for bands.

Dr. Laura Crossey, Chair and Professor of the Department of Earth and Planetary Science at the University of New Mexico (UNM) and New Mexico AMP Institutional Coordinator (IC), was recently recognized for her outstanding 30-year mentoring effort by the New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering (NMNWSE) with the Ninth Annual IMPACT! Award. Dr. Crossey directly mentored over 100 undergraduate and graduate students in her discipline as well as serving as a leader in local and statewide K-12 through graduate level Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) support programs. She also served on the New Mexico Governor’s committee to establish science standards and has been an active participant in development of policies and programs that support inclusive participation and success in STEM across the campus, improving the college experience of thousands of students.

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), was represented by ten students and three teams at the 2015 New Mexico AMP Student Research Conference. Two of the teams tied for second place for their research poster in the Community College category: (Team 1) Derek Kahlken, Joaquina Castillo, and Kyle Baker, and (Team 2) Elijah Castillo and Tomczak Billie. Derek, Joaquina, and Kyle presented research on 3D printing technology, and Elijah and Tomczak’s research focused on developing rovers to communicate data through commands and images from the SIPI Mars Yard Technology Lab.

Shanae Roybal, a senior majoring in Biology at Northern New Mexico College (NNMC), recently co-authored, “Modeling Honey Bee Population,” an article featured in The Public Library of Science One (PLOS ONE). The article is co-authored by David Torres, NNMC Professor and Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Physical Science and New Mexico AMP Institutional Coordinator (IC), and Ulises Ricoy, NNMC Associate Professor of Life and Biological Sciences. The study explores bee populations and produces results that demonstrate the honey bee colony is highly susceptible to hive and pupae mortality rates.

The Summer 2015 Summer Community College Opportunity for Research Experience (SCCORE) took place at five host institutions statewide including New Mexico State University (NMSU), Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU), New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU), New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech), and University of New Mexi-
co (UNM). Each institution welcomed partner community college students with a total of 27 SCCORE Participants. NMSU hosted ten students, UNM hosted six, ENMU and NMHU hosted four, and New Mexico Tech hosted three. Since its inception, SCCORE has provided research opportunities to over 150 STEM-oriented students and continues to mentor and prepare students for transition to the four-year institution. Statewide, SCCORE participants engage in professional development training that includes poster presentation and development, abstract writing training, meeting professionals in various Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, campus orientations, labs tours, and field trips. Applications will be available for SCCORE 2016 early next semester and will be due the middle of March. SCCORE programs will be held at partner universities around the state and will be held in the month of June. Students should contact their Institutional Coordinator to obtain an application. For more information, call Jeanne Garland at (575) 646-5212.

Lisa McBride, Rose Peralta, Justin Saiz, Stephen Salinas, and Gabrielle Vigil, Undergraduate Research Scholars participants at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU), researched anacondas in Munoz, Venezuela with their faculty mentors, Dr. Jesus Rivas, who is NMHU Associate Professor of Biology, and Dr. Corey Rivas, who is NMHU Assistant Professor of Biology. Over a three-week period, the team captured, studied, and released 54 green anacondas. In addition to the anaconda research, they conducted further studies through surveys of tropical waterfowl and mammals. Rose Peralta, Lisa McBride, and Gabrielle Vigil went to other international journeys to Mexico with the professors, where Rose did a study with birds and long-term recolonization of forest patches, Lisa conducted research on a community of frogs in the understory of the forest, and Gabrielle conducted research on density of frogs.

Amber Medina, New Mexico State University (NMSU) Undergraduate Research Scholar (URS) and B.S. degree recipient in Physics, began her Ph.D. studies in Physics at Harvard University (Harvard) in Fall 2015. Amber’s previous achievements include the award of an internship at Harvard’s Smithsonian Astrophysics Center and the publication of a scientific paper that was presented at the American Astronomical Society’s 223rd National Conference in January 2014. In Fall 2014, after a summer internship at The Ohio State University, mentored by Dr. Jennifer Johnson and Dr. Sarah Schmidt, Amber presented her research entitled, “Identification of Young Low Mass Stars and Brown Dwarfs in our Solar Neighborhood,” at the 2014 New Mexico AMP Student Research Conference.

Torey Salgado is an Applied Biology major who transferred from New Mexico State University–Carlsbad (NMSU–C) to NMSU after receiving the New Mexico AMP Transfer Scholarship in Fall 2015. While enrolled at NMSU–C, Torey attended the 2014 Undergraduate Student Research Conference. When graduating in May, 2015, he was honored as one of the NMSU–C Outstanding Students in Science. In Summer 2015, Torey received a fellowship for the MARC Program and conducted research in the field of Molecular Biology. Specifically, Torey was responsible for creating a recombinant DNA construct to transform DNA into E. coli cells that then purified the protein from the E. coli cells to use in future projects. Torey works with NMSU faculty mentor, Dr. C. Brad Shuster.

Crystal Tulley-Cordova (photo at left) and Nikki Tulley are sisters and former Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) at the University of New Mexico (UNM). Crystal, the older of the two, earned the B.S. in Earth and Planetary Science and M.S. in Water Resources in Hydroscience from UNM. Crystal is now a Ph.D. student in Geology at the University of Utah, where she also serves as the President of the Society for Native American Graduate Students and Crystal is now a Ph.D. student in Geology at the University of Utah, where she also serves as the President of the Society for Native American Graduate Students and a member of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics, and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) and the Inter-Tribal Association. She is also the Senior National Representative for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). Crystal’s sister, Nikki, earned a B.S. in Environmental Science at UNM and is now working towards an M.S. in Water Resources there. In addition to her studies, Nikki helped organize the SACNAS Conference at UNM. She has taught in the summers in a program funded by the Utah Department of Workforce Services for middle-school children on the Blanding campus of Utah State University. The program is dedicated to helping underprivileged Native American students from Navajo and Hopi reservations stay on track and excel in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education. Serving as role models for the students, Nikki and other Native Americans participated as teachers, applying creative ways for the young students to learn to use and love mathematics and to think critically.

Felly Montelya, 2008 Summer Community College Opportunity for Research Experience (SCCORE) participant and Undergraduate Research Scholar (URS) participant, graduated with a B.S. degree in 2011 and will receive the M.S. in Environmental Engineering in December 2015 from NMSU. Felly has had the opportunity to research in multiple disciplines including physics, environmental engineering, and biology. Felly works with Reinventing the Nation's
Urban Infrastructure (ReNUWIt) program with faculty mentor Dr. Nirmala Khandan, Professor of Civil Engineering and Community College Education Lead and Campus Co-PI of ReNUWIt at NMSU. Felly traveled to South Korea in the summer of 2014 to research algal biofuels at the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology under the NSF East Asia Pacific Summer Internship. She is a NSF IIA Fellow, and recently co-authored “Feasibility of Algal Systems for Sustainable Wastewater Treatment,” which was published in *Bioresources Technology*.

Felly completed a summer internship at the New Mexico Consortium Lab at Los Alamos National Laboratory in summer 2015. In November 2015, Felly attended the EPSCoR National Conference in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

**Chris Hirani**, University of New Mexico (UNM) Summer Community College Opportunity for Research Experience (SCCORE) participant, started his academic career at Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) and received the New Mexico AMP Transfer Scholarship in fall 2015 for his transfer to UNM. While a student at CNM, Christopher received the New Mexico Credit Union Education Foundation scholarship, the CNM Advantage Scholarship, and the CNM Career and Technical Programs Scholarship. Christopher’s research interests include nano-sciences, electrochemistry, and environmental engineering. He presented research posters at the 2014 and 2015 New Mexico Academy of Science (NMAS) Research Symposium in Albuquerque, NM, at which he was awarded First Place for his poster presentation in 2014, an outstanding accomplishment because he competed with both community college and university researchers. Chris also presented research at the New Mexico AMP Student Research Conferences in 2014 and 2015, and he was awarded First Place for a poster presentation at the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Annual Student Conference in November of 2015 in Salt Lake City, UT. He hopes to continue his success and maintain his 4.0 GPA while progressing toward a B.S. in Chemical Engineering at UNM.

**Gerardo Martinez**, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) recipient and former New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation (New Mexico AMP) Undergraduate Research Scholar (URS), received a Mechanical Engineering B.S. and M.S. degree from New Mexico State University (NMSU). After receiving the M.S. degree, Gerardo worked as a Technology Commercialization Associate at the NMSU Arrowhead Center while also working toward the M.S. in Electrical Engineering. He is currently employed as a Research and Development Mechanical Engineer at Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Recently, Gerardo served on a payload research team for the NASA SOF-2 project. In November 2015, the project successfully operated onboard UP Aerospace’s suborbital launch vehicle. The experimental payload was designed to test an algorithm in near-zero gravity that identifies the mass properties in the weightlessness of space. The purpose of the algorithm is to enhance controllability/maneuverability, thus optimizing fuel usage and extending service life. Gerardo stated, in reference to New Mexico AMP, “Thank you all for the support and great opportunities! Yesterday we made the community proud by highlighting NMSU, Spaceport America, and engineering.”

**José Mondragon and Davi Mondragon**, twin brothers, participated in the 2015 Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) Summer Community College Opportunity for Research Experience (SCCORE) program. They both recently graduated from Luna Community College (Luna CC) with an Associate Degree in Pre-Engineering. Both brothers received the New Mexico AMP Transfer Scholarship and are attending ENMU in Fall 2015. While at Luna CC, José and Davi were members of the baseball team and were recognized by the institutions Board of Trustees for their role in the Higher Learning Mission Accreditation process as Student Ambassadors. José and Davi also participated in community outreach by serving as judges to middle and high schools in Cimarron, New Mexico.

**Former New Mexico State University-Alamogordo (NMSU-A) Students Reece Broughton, Rio Porchas (Pictured), and Auburn Toclanny**, are former SCCORE participants who received New Mexico AMP Transfer Scholarships. Each student was recognized at the May 2015 NMSU-A Graduation ceremony. Reece, honored as Crimson Scholar, Meritorious Graduate, Honor Society member, and Griggs Endowed Scholarship recipient, transferred to New Mexico Tech in fall 2015. Rio, honored as Crimson Scholar and Meritorious Graduate, transferred in fall 2015 to NMSU. Auburn, who transferred to NMSU in spring 2015, was recognized at the ceremony as the first recipient of the Associate of Science degree in general engineering at NMSU Alamogordo.

**Isabella Acevedo-Rodriguez**, Undergraduate Research Scholar (URS) at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech), will graduate with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from New Mexico Tech in May 2016. In 2013, Isabella earned First Place for her oral presentation at the New Mexico AMP Student Research Conference, and more recently, she was awarded Third Place for her poster presentation at the 2015 New Mexico AMP Student Research Conference. At New Mexico Tech, Isabella is a team member of the Society for Automotive Engineers (SAE), a group that competed at the Aero Design West competition in Van Nuys, CA. From 2012 to 2014, she was a volunteer and group member for the Ameri-
The American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Design Build Fly Project, which allowed her to create and execute conceptual designs of the wing and tail configuration, landing gear, materials, and power plant of a model airplane. Isabella then went on to compete at the AIAA international competition in 2013 and 2014. Also in 2014, she secured an internship at the Aerospace Corporation–Space Innovation Directorate in El Segundo, CA. She has also attended working operation meetings at the NASA Langley Research Center to assist in the coordinated flying of an A-Train Constellation Satellite. After graduation, Isabella hopes to continue her research as she pursues an M.S. in Aerospace Engineering with a focus on Orbital Mechanics.

Andrea Salazar, Spring 2015 Undergraduate Research Scholar (URS) participant, is a Chemical Engineering major at New Mexico State University (NMSU) who is currently studying abroad at Sogang University in South Korea. At NMSU, Andrea’s faculty mentor is Dr. Katherine Brewer, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering, and Andrea’s research interests include process design and control. Andrea presented her research study entitled, “Tumbleweed Mitigation Through Biochar Production,” at the 2014 New Mexico AMP Student Research Conference. Before traveling to South Korea, Andrea also served as the Secretary for the Society for Women Engineers (SWE) and was a College of Engineering Ambassador.

Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) students Cody Tyler, Natalie Correa, Melissa Montoya (all featured in the conference awardees section), and Diana Perales (pictured below) are 2015 Summer Community College Opportunity for Research Experience (SCCORE) participants from CNM who have done an outstanding job of representing their institution in 2015. In addition to all attending the 2015 New Mexico AMP Student Research Conference, three of the four students took home awards for their research posters. Cody Tyler, computer engineering major, was awarded First Place in the Community College division for his research poster. Cody, who was also awarded both the CNM Foundation Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Success Transfer Scholarship and the New Mexico AMP Transfer Scholarship, now attends the University of New Mexico (UNM). Natalie Correa and Melissa Montoya, biology majors, tied for Third Place for their research poster in the Community College Division at the New Mexico AMP Conference. In addition, Natalie gave an oral presentation and Melissa, Natalie, and Diana presented posters at the New Mexico Academy of Science (NMAS) Symposium in Albuquerque in November 2015. Melissa was also chosen out of 160 community college students nationwide to participate in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) Project. Natalie, who received the New Mexico AMP Transfer Scholarship, is now pursuing a B.S. in Biology at UNM. Diana, who also received the 2015 CNM Women in Non-traditional Careers Award, is also currently working with Sandia National Laboratory as an intern in organic chemistry. Kudos to all these outstanding students who represent New Mexico AMP and CNM so well!

Danielle Miranda, New Mexico State University (NMSU) Summer Community College Opportunity for Research Experience (SCCORE) and Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) participant and New Mexico AMP Transfer Scholarship recipient, was awarded the Ph.D. in Translational Science at Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona in May 2015. Danielle has recently taken a position as a research protocol specialist in the Clinical Studies Unit at Mayo Clinic. In this work, she is involved in multiple clinical studies and also assists physicians with development of their clinical protocols. In this experience, she is learning about ongoing research while also becoming more familiar with the business aspect of Clinical Studies. She began her academic career at NMSU and transferred to NMSU, where she earned the B.S. degree in Microbiology.

Katjiana Sanchez, senior at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech), will receive her B.S. in Chemical Engineering in December 2015. After graduation, Katjiana will move to Arizona, where she has secured employment working at the Intel Corporation. Katjiana’s research at New Mexico Tech focused on a targeted drug delivery system to cancer cells locally as opposed to spreading the cure throughout the body. Her research was recognized at the 2014 New Mexico AMP Student Research Conference when she, and her teammates Jared Griego, Wendy Basurto, and Mendi Marquez, won second place in the University Category for their research poster.

Elan Glendening, 2014 New Mexico State University (NMSU) Summer Community College Opportunity for Research Experience (SCCORE) Participant, is a NMSU-Alamogordo (NMSU-A) student who also participated in a summer 2015 EPSCoR research internship program called the STEM Advancement Program (STEMAP). The internship was a 10-week program that began at New Mexico Tech where students went through an initial orientation. After this orientation, Elan spent nine weeks at NMSU on a research entitled, “Methods for protecting the growth of G sulphuraria as wastewater treatment and a source of profitable co-products.” Elan presented this research at the 2015 New Mexico AMP Student Research Conference in fall 2015 and at the New Mexico Academy of Science (NMAS) Symposium in November 2015. Elan is planning to transfer to NMSU in fall of 2017.
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