

Keeping up with the College

Dean's Message

The college has come out very strong in attending the needs of New Mexicans during the two large fires near Mora and Las Vegas, NM. This has been done through our extension agents in the affected zones. They have been doing a lot of coordination in terms of arranging feed for the cattle, shelter for the pets, and also looking at the needs of different individuals.



Dean & Chief Administrative Officer Rolando A. Flores Galarza

We are collaborating and working with New Mexicans but we have also been part of the tragedy of the effects of these fires. Unfortunately, this has been in many cases for some of our colleagues in the college. There are couple of cases that colleagues have lost their houses as well as others losing their property. In addition, our facilities in the science center's known as the John T. Harrington (JTH) Forestry Research Center located in Mora required extra effort to protect.

The superintendent Dr. Owen and his team along with the associate Dean for research in the college, Dr. Leslie Edgar, have been hands on in moving not only the seedbank but also seedlings that are produced in this center. It is important to notice that this is the only seedlings production facility in the southwest of the U.S that provides for 250,000–300,000 seedlings annually. With these forest fires the needs for seedlings has skyrocket. Due to their dedication and hard work the team were able to save first, the seed bank that was transferred to Los Lunas close to Albuquerque and also about 75,000 seedlings to Santa Fe. This has been one of those cases in which not only the faculty and staff of the college have come together and made us extremely proud for their **service** to New Mexico at the same time we feel for all of those who have been affected by the fire.

On a personal note, we stress to them that the ACES family will keep them present, and we will work with them in whatever we can to assist them.

Last but not least, we are very happy and proud of our students, faculty, and staff for concluding a great semester with 166 undergraduate and 63 graduate degrees conferred this weekend. Best of luck to all and keep us informed of their successes

4-H DEVELOPMENT

Congratulations to the New Mexico 4-H STEAM Innovators team for being the winners of the 2022 Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education (STEM) Award by the Air Force Research Lab Tech Engagement Office in the non-profit category.

The 2022 Excellence in STEM Awards, aka the STEMYS honors students, teachers, volunteers and other New Mexicans doing great things in science, technology, engineering and math education. This is the event's 5th year.

"Congratulations to all of this year's STEMYS winners! As always, it was hard to narrow down the field of nominations as there are so many deserving New Mexicans and organizations across the state doing amazing things in STEM," Matt Fetrow, Director of the AFRL Tech Engagement Office said. "This year's winners have all demonstrated commitment to STEM education in their own special way, and we can't wait to honor them."



Save the date for the 2022 4-H State Conference to be held July 11-14 at NMSU. Every summer this conference brings to our campus over 300 bright, enthusiastic NM youth in 8th-12th grades. State Conference not only provides incredible opportunities for youth, but also to the College of ACES. Through workshop presentations, contest involvement, sponsorships, and promotional activities you can showcase your department and connect with future Aggies!

SAVE THE DATE

STATE 4-H CONFERENCE

JULY 11 - 14, 2022 • LAS CRUCES, NM



LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR SUPPORT!



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Cooperative Extension Service

If you'd like to be involved in this premier event and take advantage of an exciting recruitment opportunity, please contact Dr. Laura Bittner lbittner@nmsu.edu or anyone in the State 4-H Department.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

The JTH Forestry Research Center hosted Senator Martin Heinrich on April 20, 2022 to discuss the current state of forest conditions in New Mexico, reforestation needs within the state/region, and the role that the recently



created New Mexico Reforestation Center (NMRC) will play in meeting those reforestation needs. In attendance were all members of the NMRC board (UNM, NMHU, NMSU, and EMNRD). The day before the visit, the Calf Canyon fire started about 17 miles SW of the JTH FRC.

This fire has grown to 165,276 acres as of May 5th and is threatening the town of Mora including the JTH FRC. A mandatory evacuation order is in place for the town which again includes the JTH FRC. All personnel are safely away as well as the entire seed collection from our seed bank. AES staff assisted in temporarily relocating the seed bank to the Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center and approximately 40,000 seedlings have been relocated to the EMNRD greenhouse in Santa Fe. The Mora Research Center had over 100,000 seedlings in greenhouses and only a portion have been able to be evacuated. Throughout this week, as fire conditions permit the JTH FRC staff, with support from EMNRD, will continue to move seedlings.



AGRICULTURAL & EXTENSION EDUCATION

Dr. Shannon Norris was awarded the outstanding presentation at the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) conference in Thessaloniki, Greece. The presentation was titled, "Picture this: Using photovoice to increase student engagement and cultural awareness in agricultural communications courses."

NMSU was well-represented at the conference. Dr. Lacey Roberts also gave an oral presentation and graduate students, Rebekah McCarty and Ariel Kent, led professional development sessions.



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Jesus Ricardo Ogaz Parada was selected for the Dean's Award of Excellence for Graduates, Spring 2022.

Ricardo is a master student in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in Food Science and Technology under the supervision of Dr. Efren Delgado. Ricardo has developed a mathematical model that uses agro-industrial by-products



Extrusion of Aquaculture feed using Chile waste

to predict aquaculture feed's best extrusion processing conditions (Chile waste). His results have shown that chili waste, mainly seeds and peel, can be a good source of crude protein, crude fiber, and antioxidant compounds (polyphenols, carotenoids, and terpenes) for the aquaculture industry. Ricardo's research directly impacts NM's aquaculture and Chile processing industry. In addition, he has developed a sustainable aquaculture feed that contributes to the decrease of the use of fishmeal for aquaculture.

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA



New Mexico FFA hosted State Career Development Events (CDE) on the campus of New Mexico State University during the week of April 6–8. Over 1100 high school students, 397 teams competed in 21 different Career Development Events ranging from Ag Mechanics to Veterinarian Science.

After several weeks of long hours practicing and studying with their FFA Advisors, these students competed over a three-day period, for their opportunity at a first-

place ranking to compete at the National FFA contests in October. This was a terrific opportunity for our students to see the NMSU campus and the Las Cruces area. We would like to thank our volunteers and CDE superintendents for making this a reality! Congratulations to all our winners and good luck at Nationals! To get an inside look of how our CDE's went or what each one is about, visit our website at <http://www.nmffa.org/career-development-events.html>

SCHOOL OF HOTEL, RESTAURANT & TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Visit Las Cruces and New Mexico Chapter of Meeting Planners International Panel Discussion

On Friday, March 18, 2022 School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management Director, Dr. Jean Hertzman moderated a Hospitality Recovery panel discussion at a lunch sponsored by the Visit Las Cruces Industry Partner Group and the New Mexico Chapter of Meeting Planner International. The distinguished panelists were NMSU alumni – Amy Miller, General Manager of Courtyard Las

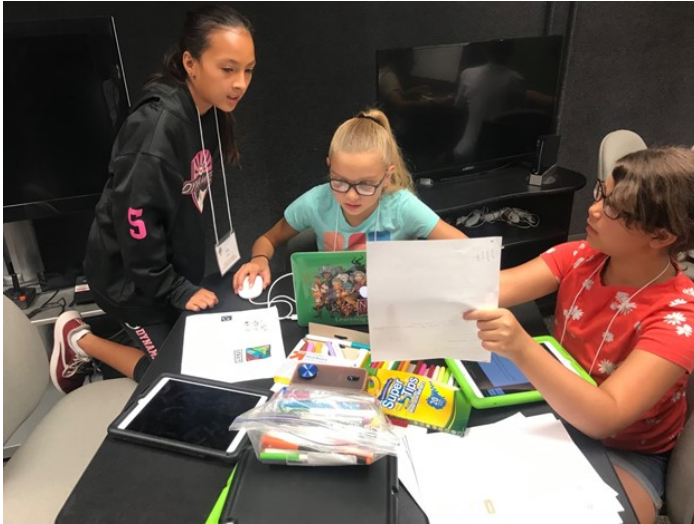


Cruces and Russell Hernandez, Owner of Salud! de Mesilla – and Jose Garcia, CEO and General Manager of Destination El Paso.

HRTM Alumni and students at the event

The panel took a deep-dive into what the hospitality environment looks like today and strategies that have been useful in recovering to pre-pandemic business levels, as well as the latest industry trends in New Mexico and our region. Over 35 industry professionals attended the event at the Las Cruces Convention Center.

INNOVATIVE MEDIA RESEARCH & EXTENSION



Learning Games Lab Welcome Youth in Summer Programs

Once again, this summer, the Innovative Media Research and Extension Department has invited youth to participate in week-long “Think Tanks”. Three different sessions will give students entering middle school or high school the opportunity to learn about digital media: developing their skills in critically reviewing games, apps and software, and testing materials in development by the department.

New this year, youth will also explore Virtual Reality (VR). At the end of each session, participants will present their design “pitches” for software or media which can solve an important problem to them. More information is included at the learninggameslab.org

PLANT & ENVIROMENTAL SCIENCES



Plant and Environmental Sciences and Extension Plant Sciences

A journal article by Dr. Shengrui Yao, titled, ‘Low temperature is critical for jujube grafting success in frost-prone northern New Mexico’ is the cover article of HortTechnology 32(1):28-31. The article summarizes 10 years of jujube grafting success and failure at the NMSU Agricultural Science Center at Alcalde in northern New Mexico. Dr. Yao has a research appointment in Plant and Environmental Sciences and an Extension appointment in Extension Plant Sciences.

The cover page is on the wall of covers on the first floor of Skeen Hall. The article can be accessed at: <https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTECH04927-21>

The Jornada Basin Long-Term

Ecological Research Site



The US National Science Foundation (NSF) funded the Jornada Basin long-term ecological research site ([JRN-LTER](#)) which conducts research on Chihuahuan desert ecosystem dynamics in response to changing land use and climate.

NMSU is the leading Institution, with institutional partners including the United States Department of Agriculture–Agricultural Research Service (USDA–ARS), University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), Arizona State University (ASU), University of Arizona (UA), University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and the University of Illinois (UI).

Learn about the history, mission, and science of the Jornada LTER as they celebrate their 40th anniversary in 2022 by watching their introduction video: [Welcome to the Jornada Basin Long-Term Ecological Research Site – YouTube](#)



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