

## 2018 New Mexico Tech President's Golf Tournament – Wrap Up

*By Nancy Bilderbeck, NMT Alumna, Class of 1976*

Imagine that your graduation is in sight. To date you embraced all New Mexico Tech (NMT) had to offer: enjoyed the student camaraderie, explored the extracurricular activities ... but mostly “hit the books.” Then the sobering reality hits – your funding has run out!!

Unfortunately most government scholarship programs only fund four years of university study. The New Mexico lottery funding is also time sensitive. Funding agencies do not take into account the rigors of completing a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) degree, which often takes 5 years.

On September 13 and 14, 2018, golfers took to the links at the New Mexico Tech Golf Course to enjoy the challenges of golf and to raise funds for the President's Scholarship Fund. It is this fund which makes tuition assistance available to students nearing completion of their degrees.

Attendees at this year's event included students, alumni, staff, faculty and spouses ... all with a link to the University and all committed to supporting the President's Scholarship Fund. Some were golfers ... some WERE NOT!



Golf was played in 3 flights (groups): one on Thursday and two on Friday. Teams of 4 played a foursome format where the “best ball” was selected. Golfers were fueled by buffet breakfasts, lunches, and dinners ... enhanced by stories of miraculous golf shots!



Thursday afternoon offered a chance to join in a NMT golf tradition: that of playing off of M Mountain. Two challenges, “longest drive” and “closest to the pin,” are appropriately named the Cliff Challenge.

The golf tournament would not be possible without the generous donation of time by current Tech students. They helped serve beverages and food and ensured golfers' needs were seen to.

Dr. Dan Lopez started the tournament in 1993 and Dr. Stephen Wells proudly continues the tradition. Since the tournament started more than 175 students, mostly fifth-year seniors, have received tuition assistance from the President's Scholarship Fund. This year's golf tournament ensures this important source of scholarship funding continues at NMT.

