



NEW MEXICO TECH

**SUPPORT THE EXPERIENCES
THAT SHAPE TECHIES.**



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**COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES**

DEAR FRIENDS,

Greetings from sunny Socorro, NM! My name is Steve Simpson, and I am writing to you on behalf of departments and programs in the College of Arts & Sciences (A&S) at New Mexico Tech.

For those who attended NMT before the creation of the Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Engineering, A&S includes programs such as Biology and Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, and Technical Communication, as well as programs such as Teacher Education, Biotechnology, Music, and the Performing Arts.

Our amazing students come to NMT not only for the classes but for the experiences — the opportunity to work as an undergraduate in faculty laboratories, or to conduct cutting-edge graduate research, or to engage in a campus culture steeped in science... and yes, even the arts! Many of you may remember these experiences yourselves when you were a student and understand the role they played in helping you develop both professionally and personally.

Today, I am inviting you to join me and the amazing NMT faculty and staff in helping provide these same experiences to current and future techies. You can help us support amazing students such as Meghan in the Biology Department, who is traveling to Bali this summer for an internship with a marine conservation organization, or help fund graduate students staying in Socorro over the summer. You can also partner with us on experiences extending beyond the classroom, such as updating the Etscorn Campus Observatory or producing the annual spring student and community musical on the Macey Center stage.

Within this brochure, you'll find an overview of current priorities for the College of Arts & Sciences. I would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about other ways you may wish to support the college or your former department.

Sincerely,



Steve Simpson, PhD
Dean of Arts & Sciences



Steve Simpson, PhD
Dean of Arts & Sciences

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Join me in giving our students memorable and life changing experiences!

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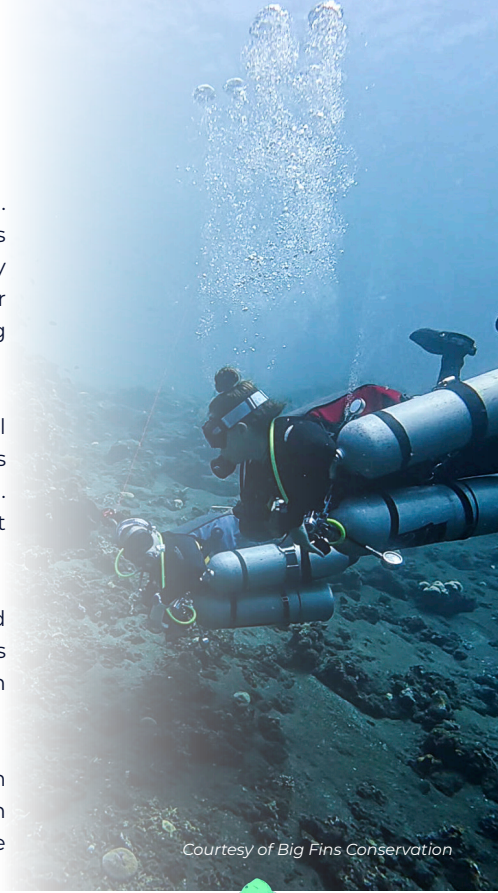
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

New Mexico Tech's brand is hands-on learning. Students choose NMT for the opportunities to conduct cutting-edge research in faculty labs, even as freshman and sophomores. Our students are also in high demand for exciting and competitive internships.

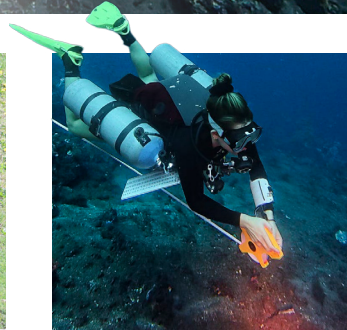
For example, this summer, Meghan (Biology) will travel to Bali to collect data on deep coral reefs and species diversity with Big Fins Conservation. Such internships often require out-of-pocket expenses for the students.

The Arts and Sciences Gift Fund is a flexible fund that allows the college to compensate students for lab work, pay for field trips, and assist with internship expenses.

This year, your donations will help students such as Meghan participate in internships through supporting expenses like travel costs, conference registration, and food.



Courtesy of Big Fins Conservation



“ I never imagined that as an undergraduate I would be working on groundbreaking research in Indonesia. New Mexico Tech has always pushed undergraduate students to pursue research and build relationships in their future fields, which is what prompted me to step out of my comfort zone for this internship. My advisor is ecstatic about the opportunity, and everyone at NMT has been nothing but positive and encouraging. I truly chose a welcoming and supportive environment for college. Because of the family I have found at New Mexico Tech, I am able to blossom into the marine scientist I want to be. ”

— Meghan

DEAN'S SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP

FOR A&S GRADUATE STUDENTS

A graduate student's research doesn't end when school lets out in May. Many graduate students stay in Socorro through the summer and continue their research, especially international students, who are often unable to return home for the break. Summer TAships can be highly competitive, and several RAships only partially fund students, leaving many NMT graduate students without support until the fall semester begins. The need is so great that summer support for graduate students has been identified as a top priority by every department on campus!

Launched just this year, the Dean's Summer Scholarship for A&S Graduate Students allows students to apply for small stipends to help with food and housing over the summer months. Stipends are currently limited to \$1,000 and offered competitively. With the support of alumni and donors, the college can expand this assistance and enable more students to stay focused on their research throughout the summer.



“Graduate students are an indispensable part of the NMT community. They play a vital role in advancing research and also support undergraduate education through teaching assistantships. Unfortunately, only 50% of our full-time graduate students receive summer funding. Expanding support would allow unfunded students to focus fully on their research and successfully complete their degrees.”

— Dr. Aly El Osery, Dean of Graduate Studies

ETSCORN

OBSERVATORY SUPPORT

Etscorn Campus Observatory (ECO) has served as a vital hub for discovery and inspiration for students and community members since its dedication in 1993 and has hosted community events such as star parties. In recent years, these programs have been suspended due to needed maintenance and upgrades.

Supported by an initial investment from NMT, renovations are now underway, including the recent replacement of the 20-inch Dobsonian dome. The next phase will upgrade telescopes in both the roll-off and main domes, integrating them into a global network of robotic telescopes. Once renovations are complete, ECO will host summer programs, star parties, and outreach events for students, alumni, and the community.

To ensure this progress lasts, the College is establishing a permanent fund to cover routine maintenance and a dedicated staff position. Alumni and donor support can help reinvigorate the space and also sustain the observatory for generations to come.



“Etscorn Observatory has long served as a gateway for student engagement and community building, introducing many, myself included, to the Astronomy Club and fostering a vibrant and active astronomy community in Socorro. With dedicated support, such as part-time staff and essential upkeep, Etscorn could transform into a central hub of campus life, attracting more students, enhancing educational experiences, and enabling a stronger, more impactful research program.”

— Kaityln Leffler, Current Student, Physics

ANNUAL SPRING MUSICAL ENDOWMENT

Our students are not just creative in the laboratory, they bring that same curiosity and imagination to the arts. The annual Spring Musical, revived in 2019, is a decades-old tradition that predates Macey Center. It enriches both campus and the Socorro community, offering students, faculty, staff, and local residents a chance to explore their creative sides together.

The 2024 production of *The Addams Family* featured a cast of students from Physics, Psychology, Computer Science, and Mechanical Engineering, as well as the spouse of a Physics faculty member, a community member, and an NRAO scientist.

Behind the scenes, students also have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in entertainment technology and learn what it takes to run a production in our amazing Macey Center. (Some alumni couples have even met in the musical!!)

With the support of alumni and donors, we hope to create the Annual Spring Musical Endowment, a permanent fund that will sustain this tradition so that future students and community members can continue to create, collaborate, and belong. The fund would help support licensing costs, venue fees, and production costs.

Help enrich the NMT student experience and strengthen the connection between campus and community!



“ Before doing any kind of theater at Tech, I was a bit lost and for some time actually considered transferring away from Tech or dropping out of college altogether. The people I have met through theater have inspired me to continue. To never give up on myself. The theater and particularly the musicals have been a great support system and have brought out the best in me. Without it, I wouldn't be the person I am today. ”

— Jalethzie, Current Student,
Computer Science

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT-SPECIFIC NEEDS



BIOLOGY

- Travel support for students (academic conferences, internships, etc.)
 - Funding to bring in external speakers
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CHEMISTRY

- Summer support for graduate students
 - Instrument and lab equipment repair and maintenance
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CLASS

**COMMUNICATION, LIBERAL ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES
(FORMERLY HUMANITIES)**

- Summer support for graduate students
 - Travel support for students (academic conferences, internships, etc.)
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EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

- Summer support for graduate students
 - Funding for graduate student recruitment
-



MATHEMATICS

- Summer support for graduate students
 - Funding for senior graduation award
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PHYSICS

- Summer support for graduate students
- Etscorn Observatory upkeep, maintenance, and staffing



INVEST IN EXPERIENCE INSPIRE THE FUTURE

Your support empowers students,
strengthens programs, and advances
discovery at New Mexico Tech.



Thank you for investing in our students and our future.

www.nmt.edu/advancement/Springappealforcollegeofartsandscience.php