

NMT Graduate Students Win Top 3 Places at SME2024

The Society of Mining Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) Minexchange is the biggest mining event in the US; over 5000 people attended this year. This conference gathers the most important representatives of the mining, metallurgical, and exploration industries, as well as many people from the academy. In parallel, over 200 technical sessions are held in different conference rooms. More than 40 graduate students (master's and Ph.D. candidates) presented their research work in poster contests. Their presentation had to be less than 4 minutes and the poster had to be visually compelling. After the presentations, 5 winners were selected, with New Mexico Tech taking the top three positions. All three are working on their research under the supervision of Dr. Pedram Roghanchi.

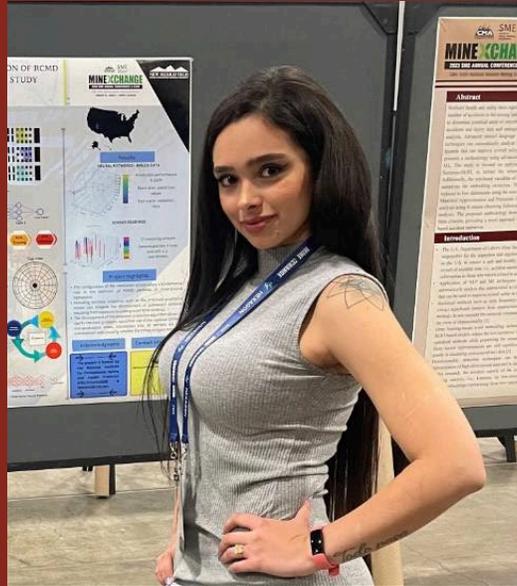
Maria Beltran Marquez (1st Place)



Maria Beltran Marquez, a Mining and Metallurgical Engineer, currently in the master's program of the Mineral Engineering Department. She had the opportunity to explain the work she has done in her research as part of her thesis on respirable coal mine dust control. She was also awarded the Henry Dewitt Graduate Scholarship, which is intended for students who are interested in mining operations.

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Maria Camila Acevedo Garcia (2nd Place)



Maria Camila Acevedo Garcia received her Mining and Metallurgy Engineering degree from Universidad Nacional de Colombia, School of Mines. Originally from Colombia, her research is based on the evaluation and prediction algorithms for Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis cases. She also won fourth place in the graduate poster contest at SME 2023.

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Angela Nataly Vanegas Valderrama (3rd Place)



Angela Nataly is a Master's student in the Mineral Engineering Department. She grew up in Colombia, a country known for its significant mining activity. She graduated in Mining Engineering at the Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia (UPTC). During her time at NMT, she worked on NIOSH-funded projects related to coal dust monitoring systems. Her dedication to mining and research has earned her several scholarships and awards, including the IIE Scholarship - Institute of International Education, Pat Miller NMTIC scholarships, the RETC (Rapid Excavation Tunneling Conference) Scholarship, SME WAIMEE scholarships and 3rd place in the SME Graduate Student Poster Competition. In the summer of 2023, she interned as a Geomechanical Engineer at Freeport-McMoRan, and will have a full-time position in June.

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