



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **New Mexico Tech eSports Team Makes History, Will Compete for National Championship Title**

SOCORRO, NM — The New Mexico Tech Miners eSports team has achieved a university first, qualifying for the highly-anticipated National Esports Collegiate Conference (NECC) League of Legends National Championships.

The three-year-old NMT eSports program has set itself apart with exceptional performances across its roster throughout the NECC Spring 2023 League of Legends season. A wild regular season led the team to regional playoffs before propelling them to NECC National Quarterfinals and Semifinals where they defeated number one seed Sacramento State and the University of Louisville. Those wins propel the team to the finals where they will compete against number five seed University of Southern Mississippi for the NECC's national title tonight, Thursday, June 15th, at 5 p.m. MST. New Mexico Tech's Director of eSports Damian Banks said the achievement is indicative of a team that continues to defy expectations and cover unexpected ground.

"This is a historic moment for our players who chose New Mexico Tech for opportunities to compete at this level, and it's a chance to remind the eSports world we're contenders at the highest level," said Banks. "Our players have showcased incredible dedication, passion, and teamwork, earning their place among the nation's top ranked collegiate competitors. It's awesome to see it and to know what it means to them."

The New Mexico Tech Miners eSports team boasts a formidable lineup of talented gamers, including Preston Kite, known as "Borrowed Bagel," Fernando Flores, alias "Minibootz," Andrew Smith, also known as "Nightfall," Abram Iverson, known as "Nezumi no Shonen," and Sofia Nocua Moreno, who goes by the handle "Fita Mwaume."

New Mexico Tech eSports was founded by Banks in 2019 and hosts five teams across four games, including Rocket League, Super Smash Bros, Valorant, and League of Legends. The road to the League of Legends National Championship saw the team defeat the University of British Columbia, Colorado College, and Randolph Macon College during Regional Playoffs.

The highly anticipated clash between New Mexico Tech Miners eSports and the University of Southern Mississippi will kick off at 5 p.m. MST and will livestream on Twitch: [https://www.twitch.tv/nmt\\_esports](https://www.twitch.tv/nmt_esports).

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