

# NEW MEXICO TECH

## COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

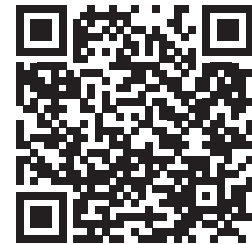


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# THE FUTURE IS YOURS

Stay connected and watch your  
classmates grow, thrive, & flourish!

Starting May 16, scan the QR code to  
download commencement photos.



Use this hashtag to share your photos  
on Instagram, Facebook, & LinkedIn:

**#NMTGrad2026**

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# BOARD OF REGENTS

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David Lepre, Sr.  
Chair

Jerry A. Armijo  
Vice Chair

Yolanda Jones King  
Secretary-Treasurer

Srinivas Mukkamala  
Regent

Cody Johnston  
Student Regent

# PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENTS, & DEANS

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Michael Jackson  
President

Lique Coolen  
Provost, Vice President of  
Academic Affairs and Vice  
President of Research

David Greene  
Vice President of Student Affairs

Delilah Walsh  
Vice President of Administration  
& Finance

Jennifer Chapman  
Dean of Students

Elaine DeBrine-Howell  
Dean of Student Success  
Initiatives

Linda DeVeaux  
Faculty Senate Chair

Aly El-Osery  
Dean of Graduate Studies

Corey Leclerc  
Dean of Engineering

Steve Simpson  
Dean of Arts & Sciences

# AGENDA

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## Processional

### Presentation of the Colors, Gonfalons, and Mace

University: Dr. Linda Deveaux  
Arts & Sciences: Dr. Steve Simpson  
Engineering: Dr. Corey Leclerc  
Mace: Dr. Bill Stone

## Welcome

President Michael Jackson

## National Anthem

Timothy J. Nice

## Introductions

President Michael Jackson

## President's Address

President Michael Jackson

## Presentation of Distinguished Teacher Award

Provost Lique Coolen

## Introduction of Student Speaker

Vice President David Greene

## Student Speaker

David Koshkin

## Graduate Awards

Dean Aly El-Osery

## Undergraduate Award

Provost Lique Coolen

## Presentation of Undergraduate Degrees

Provost Lique Coolen

## Presentation of Graduate Degrees – Master's

Provost Lique Coolen

## Presentation of Graduate Degrees – Ph.D.

Provost Lique Coolen

## Alumni Pinning Ceremony

Director Sandi Lucero –  
Alumni Affairs

## Closing Remarks

President Michael Jackson

## Recessional



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# AWARDS

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## Distinguished Teaching Award

The Distinguished Teaching Award is presented each year to a faculty member based on recommendations and nominations from students, alumni, and other faculty. The winner receives a plaque and a \$2,500 cash award.

## Langmuir Award

The Langmuir Award for Excellence in Research is given for an outstanding scientific research paper by any student or graduate of New Mexico Tech. The paper must have been submitted to or published by a recognized journal during the preceding year. The recipient is selected by the Faculty Senate's Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee. The award is named in honor of Irving Langmuir (Nobel Laureate, chemistry, 1932) who conducted extensive research with Tech staff. The award consists of a plaque and a \$400 cash award.

## Founders' Award

The Founders' Award was created to honor the persons responsible for establishing the New Mexico School of Mines in Socorro in 1889, especially J.J. Baca and Ethan Eaton. The award is presented to the recipient of an advanced degree who has made an outstanding contribution to Tech through scholarship, research, and involvement in campus affairs. The recipient is chosen by faculty nomination and Faculty Senate election. The award consists of a plaque and an \$800 cash award.

## Cramer Awards

These awards were established to honor Tom Cramer, an engineer and a member of the Tech Board of Regents for 26 years. These awards are given to the top two graduating seniors in engineering who rank highest in scholarship. The recipients are chosen by the Faculty Senate upon recommendation of the engineering faculty. The awards consist of a citation and a \$400 cash award.

## Brown Award

The Brown Award is named in honor of Mr. C.T. Brown, a mining executive and great benefactor of NMT and of Socorro who served on the Tech Board of Regents from 1898 to 1914 and from 1917 to 1922. It is presented to the member of the graduating class who, in the opinion of the faculty, ranks highest in scholarship, conduct, and leadership. The award consists of a plaque and a prize of \$1,000.

# PRESENTATION OF DEGREES

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## Undergraduates

Dr. Matthew Johnson, Associate Professor of Spanish and Hispanic Studies

## Graduates

Dr. Aly El-Osery, Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor of Electrical Engineering

# ABOUT NMT & THE CLASS OF 2026

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At New Mexico Tech, big ideas start small and grow into world-changing work.

From a campus in Socorro, students and researchers are tackling some of the most complex challenges of our time, from securing digital systems and understanding our atmosphere to advancing energy, materials, and space science. What begins here does not stay here. It moves into national laboratories, industry, and communities around the world.

The Class of 2026 joins a legacy of more than 11,000 alumni who have built careers defined by curiosity, resilience, and impact. They are engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and innovators who solve problems others have not yet figured out how to approach.

That spirit is rooted in a long tradition. Since its early days as a small school dedicated to mining and engineering, New Mexico Tech has evolved into a nationally respected institution known for rigorous academics, hands-on research, and close collaboration between students and faculty.

Today, Tech offers programs from associate through doctoral levels and is home to pioneering research centers whose expertise is sought by national laboratories, federal agencies, and industry leaders. Students do not just learn here. They contribute, discover, and create.

At New Mexico Tech, education is not only about what you know. It is about what you do with it.

## AFTER THE CEREMONY

Immediately following the commencement ceremony, please join us back on campus on the north side of Brown Hall to celebrate. There will be food and beverages, the bookstore will be open, and more. Photo opportunities will also be available around campus.

We encourage graduates and their guests to reflect on this incredible milestone and create memories that will last a lifetime.

# UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

\* Cum Laude  
Cumulative GPA of  
3.00 to 3.49

\*\* Magna Cum Laude  
Cumulative GPA of  
3.50 to 3.74

\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude  
Cumulative GPA of  
3.75 to 4.00

## Associate of General Studies

Isabel Laura Cuevas

## Bachelor of General Studies

Ethan B Haft\*  
Cristhian Tierney\*

## Bachelor of Arts in Biology

Hannah Rosalee Aranda\*\*\*  
Harrison Reid Kaspar  
Charles Louis Tetrault\*\*

## Bachelor of Arts in Business Management

Damon Jakeb Aguilar\*  
Ty Casey Caldwell\*

## Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Hannah Rosalee Aranda\*\*\*  
Haley Cordova\*  
Joseph Daniel Vonderhaar

## Bachelor of Science in Biology

October Anne Barnes\*  
Simon Wesley Blaser  
Nicholas Ersinghaus  
Katie Lynn Johnson\*  
Connor Glen Measles  
Seth Austin Monde\*  
Noah Christopher Patterson\*\*  
Audrey Elizabeth Wilkening\*

## Bachelor of Science in Biology with Environmental Science Option

Rubin Quinn Sheldon

## Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with Biology Option

Taleyah Rai Beyer\*\*\*  
Katerina Viviana Bonilla\*  
Erika A Eaton\*\*\*  
Joshua T Evans\*  
Hadassah Maher\*\*\*  
Riley Parker Oesch\*\*\*  
Joel Jesudas Pilli  
Juliana Caelen Rehmeier\*\*\*  
Breana Alexandria Silvis\*\*

## Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with Chemistry Option

Tobin Stack Novak\*\*  
Valeria Jannet Orozco\*\*  
Miles Karsten Sievers Roachell  
Christopher Joseph Workman\*\*  
Kateri V Zamora\*\*  
Audrey Elizabeth Wilkening\*

## Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with Cognitive Neuroscience Option

Kalpana Rose Naranjo\*

## Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering

Ngoc Quang Bui\*  
Julio Cesar Cubillas Flores  
Russell Allan Durham\*  
Luis Angel Gonzalez\*  
An Nhat Nguyen\*\*  
Jackson Bradley Orr\*\*\*  
Neal Ewing Raney\*\*  
Grayson Reed Shaw\*\*  
Ian Mica Simpson\*\*\*  
Jazmine Rayne Torres\*\*\*

## Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Chloe Elizabeth Buford\*  
David J Koshkin\*\*\*

## Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with Biochemistry Option

Xavier Thomas Chavers\*  
Isabella Rio Martinez Pruet\*\*\*

## Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

Kevin Ryan Armijo  
Luke Gabriel Fletcher\*\*\*  
DaVarryle Cody Kee\*  
Andrew Joseph Shoaff\*

## Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Nancy Avila Do\*  
Jaxen Robert Bujold\*\*\*  
Isaiah Michael Candelaria\*

Tyler Russell Del Prete\*  
Christopher Martin Esquibel\*\*  
Noah Thomas Fry\*  
Lauren Nicole Giles\*\*\*  
Colin Matthew Grandjean\*\*  
Jackelyn Hernandez\*  
Cole Daniel Johnson\*\*\*  
Cody Dean Johnston\*  
Suhithareddy Kantareddy\*  
Zixi Li\*\*\*  
Tristen Michael John Ludi-Herrera\*  
Benjamin R Mannal\*\*  
Madison Valerie Mejia\*\*  
Christian Morales  
Everest Phoenix ReVeil  
Cameron Michael Rhea\*  
John Christian Runyon\*  
Isaiah Thomas Smiley\*  
Trevor Reed Smith\*\*

## Bachelor of Science in Earth Science

Elijah Benjamin Henderson\*\*\*  
Melina Christine Karavousanos\*\*\*  
Teagan Josephine Skinner\*

## Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

Miles Dante Colasurdo  
Franklin Scott Crowley\*\*\*  
Carter Anthony Darlington\*  
Tyler Aiden Davis\*\*  
Joseph George DeHerrera  
Emiliano Diaz\*  
John Robert Durfee\*\*  
Tristan Jude Jiron\*\*  
Ryan Robert Kuhn\*\*  
Colin Ryan Martinez\*  
Benjamin Connor Medve\*\*  
Santiago Miguel Quintana\*  
Colton Tanner Rehn\*\*  
Diego Antonio Sanchez\*\*\*  
Alexander Williams\*\*  
Bryce Anthony Yearout\*\*\*

## Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering

Alexander Jacob Schlesinger

## **Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with Hydrology Option**

Cyndric Madog Mygatt\*

## **Bachelor of Science in Information Technology**

Josiah Michael H. Anderson\*  
Hunter William Lane\*

## **Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Sciences**

Asher Jordan Gonzales-Smith\*  
Davin Anthony Griego  
Timothy J Nice\*  
Lilia Mae Oakeley

## **Bachelor of Science in Management of Technology**

Ashton Louis De Graaf\*\*  
Jaina Mae Olson\*\*\*  
Emma Elizabeth Stamper\*\*

## **Bachelor of Science in Materials Engineering**

Gavin Luis Lopez Fillip\*\*  
Thomas Vern Hands\*\*\*  
DonDiego Waldorf Rains\*

## **Bachelor of Science in Materials Engineering with Metallurgical Engineering Option**

Shea Marin Case\*\*  
Isabella Claire Garcia\*\*  
Aidan Asher Woelfel

## **Bachelor of Science in Mathematics**

Evan Keith Allen\*\*  
Andre Isaac Bunker\*\*  
Othello Michael Gamboa\*  
Xavier D Lee-Chavez\*  
Aaron Emmanuel Lovato  
Juliana Caelen Rehmeier\*\*\*  
Eston Wade Satterlee\*

## **Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics with Astrophysics Option**

Logan Michael Baeza\*\*\*

## **Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering**

Aaron Aguilar  
Ryne Andre Almarinez\*\*  
Karen Jazmin Avila\*\*\*

Jordan Nathan Baca\*  
Joshua Ian Baker\*\*  
Rebecca J Barber\*  
Andrew Harry Bemis\*  
Gavin Michael Bluhm\*\*\*  
Logan Michael Bujewski\*\*\*  
Giessi Caraveo-Macias\*\*  
Armando Martin Carrillo\*  
Florian Chavez\*  
Lukas Aaron Chavez\*\*\*  
Logan Kenneth DeGraaf\*\*\*  
Niall Christopher Devlin\*  
Zoe Mae Farmer  
Kol Skegg Fuierer\*  
Joseph William Gallegos  
Christopher William Garcia\*  
Izaiah Nicolas Garcia  
Kevyn Amor Serrano Gonzales\*  
Samuel Augustis Gore\*  
Jason Guerrero\*\*  
Kaleb Scott Hanes\*  
Benjamin Thomas Harrington\*\*\*  
Jayden Gabriel Hogue\*  
Jaiden Daniel Isaacs\*\*\*  
Sameer Jain\*  
Nathan Grant Johnson\*\*  
Jason Scott Kirkbride Jr\*  
Devin Paul Knotts\*\*  
Lucas Kyle LeBow\*\*  
Cole Coit Lill\*\*  
Corey David Long\*\*\*  
Aaron Elijah Madrid\*\*\*  
Jared Lee Martinez\*\*  
Zachary Duncan McMillan\*\*\*  
Abran James Mendiola\*  
Adrian Uziel Miramontes  
Diego Augustin Montoya\*  
Dylan M Nelson  
Tyler James Ortiz  
Efrain Perez\*\*\*  
Thomas M Pierson\*\*\*  
Bay I. Rabourn\*\*  
Thomas Richard\*\*\*  
Michael Rodriguez\*  
Mohammadreza Sadeghmoghaddam\*\*\*  
Mazen Brock Salzman\*\*  
James Lowell Sandusky  
Zander Michael Smathers\*\*  
Erik Smith\*  
Brayden Timothy Stidham\*\*\*  
Dylan X Tapia\*  
Lloyd Earl Tozier  
Nikkolas E Vigil  
Sebastian Villalobos Iturralde\*\*  
Donald Howard Wells\*  
Carlos Dwight Wilcox\*\*  
Logan Drew Woods\*  
Isaac Manuel Yazzie\*

## **Bachelor of Science in Mineral Engineering**

Cort Aaron Danielson\*\*\*  
Allison M Lamery

## **Bachelor of Science in Petroleum & Natural Gas Engineering**

Mercy Nana Ama Akomprah\*\*\*  
Micah Alfred Jennings Chantos  
Gabriel Sarfo Frimpong\*\*\*  
Felix Fosu Hayford\*\*  
Duy Anh Huynh\*  
Barbara Susan Maduro  
Shawn Nieman  
Evans Akwasi Aboagye Owusu\*\*\*  
Edna Djamea Quansah\*\*  
Samuel Soto Romero\*\*  
Benedicta Elikplim Vidzro\*\*\*  
Edwin Zuniga

## **Bachelor of Science in Physics**

Menolly Eliste Benedict\*\*\*  
Fabian Caballero Vargas\*\*\*  
Jay Reve Cometsevah\*  
Lauren Elizabeth Hall\*\*\*  
Matthew Joseph Krizek\*\*  
Damian Keith Lovato-Admire  
Alexander W Luke\*\*  
Jack Ryan Nation\*\*\*  
Matthew Bill Papatheofanis  
Gerardo Ruvalcaba  
Claire Jaeger Schell  
Brandon Adam Tso\*

## **Bachelor of Science in Physics with Astrophysics Option**

Chloe Marie Avitia\*  
Olivia R Cantrell\*\*  
Suzanne Rachel Eisenberg\*  
Cody Charles Gustafson\*\*\*  
Daniel Norlan Hojnowski  
Kaitlyn Michelle Leffler\*\*\*  
Benjamin Vance Louque\*\*  
Ashleigh Emma Stewart\*\*  
Nicolas Martin Velazquez\*

# UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

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## Bachelor of Science in Physics with Atmospheric Physics Option

Rio Walker Sessions\*\*\*

## Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Gianna Isabella Blackwell\*  
Gwenevere Gene Caouette\*  
Benjamin Jay Salazar\*

## Bachelor of Science in Technical Communication

Jaime Terrazas\*\*

# MASTER'S DEGREES

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## Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering with Specialization in Surface Engineering

Alhassan Abdul-Malik  
Jesus Oscar Barajas  
Naomi Ann Helsel  
Vincent Valentin Herrera  
Norma Johnston  
Millicent Okyere Williams  
Joshua Eli Vance

## Master of Engineering in Materials Engineering

Manuel Miguel DeHerrera  
John D Huckabee

## Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering

Jared Evan Banteah  
Brian J Pando  
Matthew Keaton Spencer

## Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Intelligent Systems & Mechatronics

Mahsa Soroori Khosroshahi  
An Duc Thien Nguyen

## Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Explosives Engineering

Wilson Trendell Brown  
Adam Gerald Mirate

## Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Fluid & Thermal Sciences

Ryan Elbert Johns

## Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Solid Mechanics

Parker Charles Randall  
Nicholas Joseph Ross

## Master of Engineering Management

Bethany Clarice Cannon  
Kamryn Nicole Gordon Chavez  
Marshall Matea Koehler  
Micaela A Olivas  
Lucas David Ridgeway

## Professional Master in Transdisciplinary Cybersecurity

Jason Paul Kern  
Jonah Standfier Latner  
Samuel Wang  
Hongrong Zhong

## Master of Science in Biology

Anika C. Baloun  
Ashley Nichole Bradshaw  
Jeremy Scott Giannone  
Faye D Schilkey

## Master of Science in Chemical Engineering with Specialization in Surface Engineering

Tucker A Burnett  
Jeremiah Atta Kessie

## Master of Science in Civil & Environmental Engineering with Specialization in Civil Engineering

Nicholas A Hutt  
Allison Elise Powell

## Master of Science in Civil & Environmental Engineering with Specialization in Environmental Engineering

Aakriti Sharma

## Master of Science in Computer Science

Shashank Koganti  
Ethan Isaiah Peterson  
Tanvir Rahman  
Leonardo Hernan Saavedra

## Master of Science in Electrical Engineering

Zia Dushan Dhawan  
Nathan Drew Leesman-Wiesner  
Adrian E Maez  
Anita Maria Montoya  
Wellington William Woodward  
Aubrey L Zimmer

## Master of Science in Engineering Management

Anita Marie DeAguero  
Ryan Montoya  
Charli Ann Strong  
Christopher Todd Young

## Master of Science in Geochemistry

Rebecca Atobra Boakye  
Angela Bosco Mensah  
Sarah Ann Moses  
Aadish Velmani

## Master of Science in Geology

Evan Kenrick Bowen  
Jacob R Gehrz  
Kristen Hashberger  
Oscar Staley Zieman Scholten

## Master of Science in Geophysics

Madeline Lemoine Fresonke

## Master of Science in Hydrology

Maxwell Emerson Briggs  
Kiara Seleni Burgos  
Antonio Charles Chavez  
Abelino Amado Diego  
Fernandez Leger  
Joseph Robert Hoberg  
Joseph Michael Gregory Kuljis  
Aayushman Subedi

## Master of Science in Materials Engineering

Lukman Abubakar  
Javier Ambrose  
Gabriel V Beltran  
Rashedul Alam Chowdhury

Anne Mae Dunn  
Tanjim Fatima  
Jules Willem Nigel Harley Horak  
Joya Nath  
Natalia Anna Saiz

**Master of Science in Mathematics with Specialization in Analysis**

Forest Taylor Good  
Christian William Hackett  
Saunder Calvin Robert Jones  
Nehemiah Lopez

**Master of Science in Mathematics with Specialization in Operations Research & Statistics**

Bushra Uddin  
Mohammad Shihab Uddin

**Master of Science in Mathematics with Specialization in Statistics & Data Science**

Nadia Ramos Valenzuela

**Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering**

Timothy Junior Amevor  
Narges Sadat Bagheri  
Sara Isabel Lanctot  
Logan Levi Moore  
Jakobe Nathaniel Ochoa  
Lukas Peterson

**Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Intelligent Systems & Mechatronics**

Seth Ryan Diaz  
Jared Upshaw

**Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Explosives Engineering**

Jason Michael Dwonzyk  
Robert Stephen Ivil III  
Maria Juliana Ortiz  
Autumn Noel Weber

**Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Fluid & Thermal Sciences**

Matteo Christopher Orlando  
Darien Scott Williams

**Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Mechatronics Systems & Robotics**

Mohammad Afrazi  
Ethan Michael Brook  
Skyler Michael Bunning  
Cason R Jones  
Matthew Garner Moore  
Eleanor Anne Rightley  
Justin Ruthstrom  
Darion C Vosbein

**Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Solid Mechanics**

Samuel James Baca  
DaJae Ernestine Doral  
William Fawcett

**Master of Science in Mineral Engineering**

Nikolas Crosato  
Sebastian Nipah  
Cesar Aurelio Olivera Arata  
Isaac Osei-Somiah  
Carlos Alberto Panura Porras  
Lawrence Sarpong  
Renzo Omar Solis Vega  
Milaan Van Wyk

**Master of Science in Mineral Engineering with Specialization in Geotechnical Engineering & Geomechanical Engineering**

Rholling Mensah-Abrompah  
Bentil  
Alejandro Bernal Montiel  
Pablo Garcia  
Anthony Morgan  
Caleb Okaitei Okai

**Master of Science in Mineral Engineering with Specialization in Mineral Exploration**

Anita Adinorkuo Appah  
Solomon Nana Buadam  
Jacob Alexander West

**Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering**

Kojo Acheampong Boateng  
Vida Ama Ama Bodi  
Donna Christie Essel  
Williams Utaman  
Millicent Okyere Williams

**Master of Science in Physics**

Mariana Emelia Baca  
Eliza Sophie Canales  
Spencer James Ireland  
Michael Alexander Liebel  
Roddy Vance Buchanan Mayes  
Ananay Sethi  
Kevin Dale Turner

**Master of Science in Physics with Specialization in Instrumentation**

Grady L Owens

**Master of Science in Public Engagement in Science, Design, and Communication**

Benjamin Shea Lindner  
Mary C Pinnell

**Master of Science for Teachers**

Anna Marie Rose Brown  
Matthew V Cartee  
Rolanda Francis  
Steven Goluska  
Marie Teresa Ippel  
Nicole Keeney  
Alexander Kloepping  
Ruth I Ramirez-Gurrola  
Amanda Rose Salazar  
Valerie Scott  
Susan Sittig  
Dawn Thatcher Hipsh  
Ramalatha Thota  
Eric Joseph Vigil  
Adam B Wells  
Therese Elizabeth Wright

**Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Cybersecurity**

Dominic Shane D'Onofrio  
Melissa Lauren Fusco

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

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## Doctor of Philosophy in Biotechnology

Matthew Franklin Green

## Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Engineering with Dissertation in Surface Engineering

Naomi Ann Helsel

## Doctor of Philosophy in Earth & Environmental Science with Dissertation in Geochemistry

Debarati Banerjee  
Yerko Figueroa Penarrieta  
Endy Kevin Padilla Rivas  
Noel Skocko

## Doctor of Philosophy in Earth & Environmental Science with Dissertation in Geology

Jonathan Abimael Anaya

## Doctor of Philosophy in Earth & Environmental Science with Dissertation in Geophysics

Daniel L Douglas  
Siobhan Niklasson

## Doctor of Philosophy in Earth & Environmental Science with Dissertation in Hydrology

Loc K. Luong  
Nafis Sazeed

## Doctor of Philosophy in Materials Engineering

Amrutdyuti Swamy

## Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering

Gabriel David Maestas

## Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering with Dissertation in Intelligent Energetic Systems

Ayten Sayavur Bakhtiyarova  
Christopher A Bond

## Doctor of Philosophy in Petroleum Engineering

Anthony E Hama

## Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

Tyler F Cohen  
Roberto Niardi

## Doctor of Philosophy in Physics with Dissertation in Instrumentation

Luis Gabriel Contreras Vidal  
Shrishti Yadav

## Doctor of Philosophy in Physics with Dissertation in Astrophysics

Tierra Marie Candelaria  
Dylan Ward  
Jacob Nathaniel Wemhoner

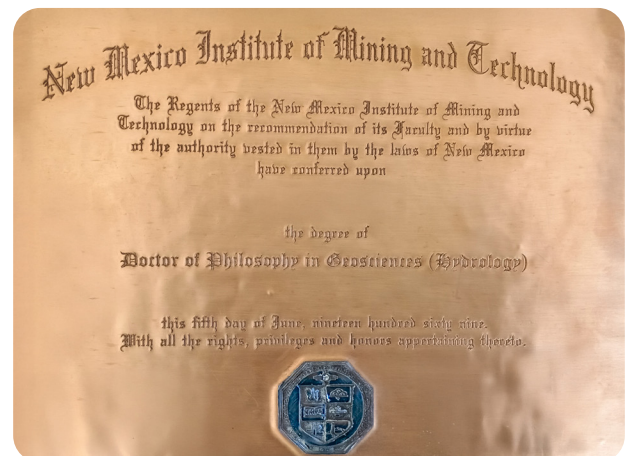
# Ph.D. COPPER DIPLOMAS

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It is a tradition at New Mexico Tech that Ph.D. recipients receive, in addition to the paper diploma, a copper diploma that has been explosively formed and engraved in true NMT fashion.

The process begins with a sheet of copper placed against a laser-etched rubber mold containing the full text of the diploma, then topped with a layer of explosive material. When detonated, the resulting high-pressure wave passes through the etched mold, precisely imprinting the diploma's text into the copper surface. At the same time, a piece of stainless steel (or silver) bearing the New Mexico Tech seal is explosively welded onto the copper, permanently embedding the university's emblem into the diploma.

This remarkable piece reflects the deep roots of New Mexico Tech in mining, materials science, chemistry, physics, and engineering. It embodies the spirit of innovation, experimentation, and creativity that has defined NMT since its founding in 1889. There is also a meaningful connection to place. Copper was mined at the nearby Kelly Mine, and silver was once extracted from Socorro's M Mountain. These are the very materials upon which the New Mexico School of Mines was built, making each diploma not only a symbol of academic achievement, but also a tribute to the region's rich history.



# PRESIDENTIAL STUDENT AMBASSADORS

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Leading today's procession are our newly appointed Student Presidential Ambassadors, proudly serving as marshals for this year's commencement. These distinguished students have been selected for their exceptional leadership, academic excellence, and dedication to the New Mexico Tech community. It is a great honor to have them represent their peers in this prestigious role as they guide our graduates, faculty, and administration into this momentous occasion.

Graduating Presidential Ambassadors are recognized today by their navy blue stoles with white lettering and navy blue and white braided cords, symbolizing their leadership and service to the university.



Graduating Ambassadors: Lauren Hall, Jaina Olson, Cody Johnston, David Koshkin (not pictured Ty Caldwell)



Full Group: **Front Row:** Parris Summers, Jalethzie Pena, Cody Johnston, Jaina Olson, Lauren Hall, Dezirae Armijo  
**Back Row:** Sandi Lucero, Ivan Watchman, David Koshkin, President Michael Jackson, Ty Caldwell, Nomar Roman, Dylan Sarracino, Chris Beall, April Sandoval, Joel Rodriguez

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# 2026

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# CORDS & TASSELS OF RECOGNITION

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## CORDS

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**Royal Blue Cords**  
Office of Student Learning  
Tutors

**Mint Green Cords**  
Resident Assistants

**Red & Gold Braids**  
Passed the Fundamentals  
of Engineering Exam

**Navy Blue Cords /  
Gold, Black, Blue Braids**  
Sports Club Participants

**Black, Red, & White Cords**  
Esports

**Royal Blue & White Cords**  
Rugby

**Purple**  
Cybersecurity Center Students

**Blue, White, & Gold Cords**  
International Students

**Red, White & Blue Braids**  
Veterans

**Royal Blue, Gold & Red Braids**  
Student Government  
Association (SGA)

**Emerald Green Cords**  
Student Research Symposium  
Presenter

**Gold & Silver Cords**  
Tech Scholars

**Lime Green Cords**  
Library Student Employees

**Black & Orange Cords**  
Miner Mayhem STEM Education  
Program

**Navy Blue & White Braids**  
Presidential Student  
Ambassadors

**Blue & Rust**  
Writing Lab Tutors

## TASSELS

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**White**  
Associate

**Orange**  
Engineering  
Undergraduate  
Level

**Yellow**  
Sciences  
Undergraduate  
Level

**Black**  
Master

**Old Gold**  
Doctorate

## ACADEMIC REGALIA: A BRIEF HISTORY AND GUIDE

The tradition of academic regalia—caps, gowns, and hoods—began in European universities during the 12th and 13th centuries, when scholars wore long robes and hoods for warmth and to reflect their clerical roots. Over time, these garments became symbols of scholarship and achievement.

Academic dress in the U.S. took shape in the late 1800s. In 1895, a group of American colleges and universities met at Columbia University and established the Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume. This agreement standardized the style of gowns and hoods and assigned colors to academic fields—many of which are still used today.

### WHAT THE COLORS MEAN

The velvet trim on hoods and doctoral gowns indicates the field of study:

- Engineering – Orange
- Science – Golden yellow
- Arts and Letters – White
- Business – Drab (light brown)
- Education – Light blue

The satin lining inside the hood shows the colors of the university conferring the degree.

For example:

- New Mexico Tech – Silver and gold
- University of New Mexico – Silver gray with a cherry red chevron
- New Mexico State University – Crimson and white

Tassels are usually black, match the discipline's color, or reflect the school's colors.

Doctoral tassels are often gold.

## **GOWN STYLES & SYMBOLS**

- Bachelor's Gown – Pointed sleeves, no trim
- Master's Gown – Long, closed sleeves
- Doctoral Gown – Round, open sleeves, velvet panels down the front, and three velvet bars on each sleeve
- University President's Gown – Similar to doctoral gowns, but with four velvet bars on each sleeve to mark the presidential role

Most gowns are black, though doctoral gowns may also be dark blue. Some fields—like medicine, nursing, or environmental studies—may use colors like green or white for the entire gown.

## **CORDS & TASSELS: SYMBOLS OF RECOGNITION**

Graduation cords and stoles have a long history as well, dating back to the Middle Ages. Today, they often signify academic honors, membership in organizations, community involvement, or family legacy.

## **UNIVERSITY MACE**

Ceremonial occasions such as commencement and convocation begin with the entrance of the University Mace, an ornamental staff bearing distinctive marks. The mace symbolizes the University's governing authority and is present only when the president and Board of Regents are in attendance. It signifies the proceedings have official sanction. The mace dates at least to 17th-century commencements and to the 11th century for other formal functions. NMT's mace—newly made this year—features at the top a three-inch brass medallion, with an antique finish, displaying the University seal. At NMT, one of the longest-serving distinguished faculty members carries it, denoting honor, tradition, and continuity.

## **UNIVERSITY GONFALON**

The university gonfalon is a ceremonial banner that represents the institution's identity and tradition. Displayed prominently at formal academic events like commencement, it features the university's colors, seal, and symbols—most notably, the blue chevron, which represents New Mexico Tech itself. This distinctive element reflects the university's strength, unity, and forward momentum.

## **ARTS & SCIENCES GONFALON**

The Arts & Sciences gonfalon represents the diverse academic disciplines at the heart of a well-rounded education. It features the college's distinctive colors and symbols, including a white chevron that signifies the pursuit of knowledge, creativity, and discovery across the sciences, humanities, and the arts. This banner embodies the college's commitment to fostering critical thinking and intellectual growth.

## **ENGINEERING GONFALON**

The Engineering gonfalon represents the innovative spirit and technical excellence at the core of New Mexico Tech's mission. Bearing a bold orange color traditionally associated with engineering, the gonfalon also features symbols of design, problem-solving, and applied science. It stands as a tribute to the ingenuity, perseverance, and impact of NMT's engineering community.

# DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

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## Biology Department

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### David K. Shortess Prize

*Riley Oesch  
Noah Patterson*

## Chemical Engineering Department

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### Outstanding Student

*Jackson Orr*

### True Grit

*Jazmine Torres*

### Student Service Award

*Grayson Shaw*

## Civil & Environmental Engineering Department

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### Paige Ashman Memorial Award

*Kirk Baloun*

## Computer Science & Engineering Department

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### Alumni Award for Top Computer Science Student

*Jaxen Bujold  
Lauren Giles  
Cole Johnson*

## Earth & Environmental Science Department

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### Estwing Award

*Melina Karavousanos*

### Wyckoff Memorial Scholarship

*Teagan Skinner*

## Information Technology Department

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### Addy and Ravi Bhasker Award

*Josiah Anderson*

## Management Department

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### Bursum Award

*Ty Caldwell*

## Mechanical Engineering Department

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### Outstanding Design Award

*Aaron Madrid*

### Outstanding Design Clinic Team Leader

*Isaac Yazzie*

### Outstanding Service

*Erik Smith*

### Outstanding Research

*Riley Morris*

### Outstanding Graduate Student Award

*Gabriel Maestas*

## Physics Department

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### Abraham and Esther Brook Prize

*Lily Rich  
Elijah Sisneros*

### Petschek Award

*Jack Nation*

### Leslie Fallon Award

*Roberto Niardi*

### Marvin Wilkening Award

*Minnow Benedict*

### Colgate Excellence in Physics Award

*Rio Sessions*

### Caitlin MacQueen Guenther Memorial Scholarship

*Megan Hein*

### Physics Achievement Award

*Olivia Cantrell*

# GRADUATING TECH SCHOLARS

A designation awarded to students who have demonstrated superior scholastic competence and conduct.

*Mercy Nana Ama Akomprah*

*Hannah Rosalee Aranda*

*Karen Jazmin Avila*

*Logan Michael Baeza*

*Joshua Ian Baker*

*October Anne Barnes*

*Andrew Harry Bemis*

*Menolly Eliste Benedict*

*Taleyah Rai Beyer*

*Gavin Michael Bluhm*

*Logan Michael Bujewski*

*Jaxen Robert Bujold*

*Fabian Caballero Vargas*

*Olivia R Cantrell*

*Shea Marin Case*

*Xavier Thomas Chavers*

*Lukas Aaron Chavez*

*Jay Reve Cometsevah*

*Franklin Scott Crowley*

*Cort Aaron Danielson*

*Ashton Louis De Graaf*

*Logan Kenneth DeGraaf*

*Niall Christopher Devlin*

*Emiliano Diaz*

*Erika A Eaton*

*Suzanne Rachel Eisenberg*

*Christopher Martin Esquibel*

*Gavin Luis Lopez Fillip*

*Luke Gabriel Fletcher*

*Gabriel Sarfo Frimpong*

*Othello Michael Gamboa*

*Isabella Claire Garcia*

*Lauren Nicole Giles*

*Luis Angel Gonzalez*

*Samuel Augustis Gore*

*Colin Matthew Grandjean*

*Cody Charles Gustafson*

*Lauren Elizabeth Hall*

*Thomas Vern Hands*

*Benjamin Thomas Harrington*

*Elijah Benjamin Henderson*

*Jackelyn Hernandez*

*Jaiden Daniel Isaacs*

*Tristan Jude Jiron*

*Cole Daniel Johnson*

*Katie Lynn Johnson*

*Nathan Grant Johnson*

*Cody Dean Johnston*

*Melina Christine Karavousanos*

*Harrison Reid Kaspar*

*David J Koshkin*

*Matthew Joseph Krizek*

*Ryan Robert Kuhn*

*Lucas Kyle LeBow*

*Xavier D Lee-Chavez*

*Kaitlyn Michelle Leffler*

*Zixi Li*

*Cole Coit Lill*

*Corey David Long*

*Benjamin Vance Louque*

*Alexander W Luke*

*Aaron Elijah Madrid*

*Hadassah Maher*

*Benjamin R Manna*

*Jared Lee Martinez*

*Isabella Rio Martinez Pruet*

*Zachary Duncan McMillan*

*Connor Glen Measles*

*Benjamin Connor Medve*

*Madison Valerie Mejia*

*Diego Augustin Montoya*

*Christian Morales*

*Cyndric Madog Mygatt*

*Kalpana Rose Naranjo*

*Jack Ryan Nation*

*An Nhat Nguyen*

*Timothy J Nice*

*Tobin Stack Novak*

*Lilia Mae Oakeley*

*Riley Parker Oesch*

*Jaina Mae Olson*

*Valeria Jannet Orozco*

*Jackson Bradley Orr*

*Evans Akwasi Aboagye Owusu*

*Noah Christopher Patterson*

*Efrain Perez*

*Thomas M Pierson*

*Joel Jesudas Pilli*

*Edna Djamea Quansah*

*Bay I. Rabourn*

*DonDiego Waldorf Rains*

*Neal Ewing Raney*

*Juliana Caelen Rehmeier*

*Colton Tanner Rehn*

*Cameron Michael Rhea*

*Thomas Richard*

*Michael Rodriguez*

*John Christian Runyon*

*Mohammadreza*

*Sadeghmoghaddam*

*Mazen Brock Salzman*

*Diego Antonio Sanchez*

*Rio Walker Sessions*

*Grayson Reed Shaw*

*Breana Alexandria Silvis*

*Ian Mica Simpson*

*Zander Michael Smathers*

*Erik Smith*

*Trevor Reed Smith*

*Samuel Soto Romero*

*Emma Elizabeth Stamper*

*Brayden Timothy Stidham*

*Jazmine Rayne Torres*

*Nicolas Martin Velazquez*

*Donald Howard Wells*

*Carlos Dwight Wilcox*

*Audrey Elizabeth Wilkening*

*Alexander Williams*

*Christopher Joseph Workman*

*Bryce Anthony Yearout*

*Kateri V Zamora*

# 2026 MACEY SCHOLARS

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The William B. & Jean M. Macey Scholars Program recognizes undergraduates whose accomplishments in academics, research, service, volunteerism, and other activities are exceptional and inspiring. Macey Scholars receive a financial award of \$5,000.

*Rio Sessions*  
Physics

*Jaina Olson*  
Management  
of Technology

*Jack Nation*  
Physics

*Ryne Almarinez*  
Mechanical  
Engineering

## COMMENCEMENT NATIONAL ANTHEM

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### TIMOTHY J. NICE

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Timothy J. Nice is a May 2026 Bachelor of Science candidate in Interdisciplinary Sciences with a minor in Materials Engineering at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, where he has also contributed as an undergraduate researcher.

A non-traditional student, Tim brings a wealth of life experience to his academic journey. He is a husband, father of three adult sons, and proud “Pah-Pa” to his granddaughter. His path has been shaped by both perseverance and resilience, including recovery from a serious car accident in 2008 and a stroke in 2024. These experiences have strengthened his perspective and deepened his commitment to growth, purpose, and service.

Tim’s background in the technical trades, combined with his academic studies, reflects a unique and practical approach to problem-solving and innovation. His work at New Mexico Tech has allowed him to bridge hands-on experience with scientific exploration, positioning him to contribute meaningfully in interdisciplinary fields.

Throughout his journey, Tim remains deeply grateful for the support of his family, his mentors, including Dr. Bhaskar Majumdar, and the communities that have encouraged and supported him along the way. These include his New Mexico Tech peers and internship colleagues, his faith community at Calvary Chapel in Socorro, and the legacy of service within his family, including those who have served in the United States military.

Looking ahead, Tim is committed to a future of service through engineering, scientific innovation, and a lifelong pursuit of mastery shaped by resilience, curiosity, and purpose.



# COMMENCEMENT STUDENT SPEAKER

## DAVID KOSHKIN

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David Koshkin is a graduate of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, where he has earned his degree in Chemistry. Originally a mechanical engineering major, he discovered his passion for chemistry through an inspiring general chemistry course, a turning point that reshaped his academic path. He has since pursued his studies with focus and determination, maintaining a near-perfect academic record.

Alongside his academic achievements, David worked as a nurse tech in a local emergency department, gaining hands-on experience supporting medical teams and caring for patients in high-pressure environments. Combined with time spent shadowing a physician in Socorro, these experiences deepened his understanding of healthcare challenges, particularly in rural communities. He plans to apply to medical school this May.

As Lead Presidential Ambassador and a founding member of the Presidential Student Ambassador Program, David helped shape the program into what it is today. He has mentored fellow ambassadors, collaborated with campus leadership, and supported recruitment, alumni engagement, and community outreach. He is known for his professionalism, authenticity, and ability to connect with others.

He also played a key role in revitalizing KTEK Media Group, growing it into a student-led organization that now engages more than 60 students. In addition, he has served as President of the Chemistry Club and Vice President of the Ski and Snowboard Club, reflecting his strong commitment to student life.

Beyond campus, David participated in a legislative advocacy internship, engaging with policymakers on issues related to healthcare and education.

In recognition of his leadership and lasting contributions, David has been selected as this year's recipient of the Legacy of Leadership Award. As a founding member and current Lead Ambassador, he exemplifies the qualities this honor represents.

As Sandi Lucero, Director of Alumni Affairs, shared, "David is one of those students you wish you could clone. He is professional, thoughtful, and incredibly driven."

Through his many contributions, David has made a lasting impact on the New Mexico Tech community, one that will continue well beyond his time on campus.



# DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

## TODD WOLFORD, MATHEMATICS

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***Dr. Todd Wolford: Inspiring confidence, one equation at a time***

Dr. Todd Wolford of the Department of Mathematics is this year's recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award.

Dr. Wolford's enthusiasm for mathematics and passion for teaching have a lasting impact on his students. He is known not only for his excellence in the classroom, but also for the genuine care he shows for those he teaches.

Students consistently praise his patience and his ability to make even the most complex mathematical concepts approachable. Their feedback highlights not only his clarity in teaching, but also his dedication to ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed.

### **Some comments from students include:**

*"He's probably the best professor I've ever had. He understands questions even if they're difficult to formulate and answers them well"*

*"Greatest Math Teacher to ever exist."*

*"Professor Todd taught me math in a very specific way, that I really learned from. He used methods that other math teachers don't use, and he's very friendly with students. "*



Dr. Wolford's enthusiasm for mathematics and passion for teaching have a lasting impact on his students. He is known not only for his excellence in the classroom, but also for the genuine care he shows for those he teaches.

Originally from Aurora, Ohio, Dr. Wolford earned his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from New Mexico Tech in 1999 and his Master of Science in Mathematics in 2003. After additional study at Montana State University, he returned to NMT to complete his Ph.D. in Industrial and Applied Mathematics in 2012, with research focused on size-structured fish population models.

He served as a Lecturer and Senior Lecturer at Northern Arizona University from 2012 to 2018 before returning to New Mexico Tech, where he has taught since 2018. He teaches a wide range of courses, including the calculus sequence, linear algebra, and differential equations, and was promoted to Associate Teaching Professor in 2025.

This marks Dr. Wolford's second time receiving the Distinguished Teaching Award, having previously earned the honor in 2020.



# A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM THE NEW MEXICO TECH CLASS OF 2026

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As we stand on the edge of what comes next, the Class of 2026 takes a moment to reflect on the journey that brought us here and the people who made it possible.

To our families and friends, thank you for being our foundation. You supported us through every challenge, celebrated every milestone, and reminded us why we started when things felt uncertain. Your belief in us never wavered, and that made all the difference.

To our professors and mentors, thank you for pushing us to think deeper, work harder, and aim higher. You created an environment where curiosity thrived and where we were encouraged not just to learn, but to question, explore, and grow. The impact of your guidance will stay with us far beyond this moment.

To the staff who keep this university moving, thank you for the countless ways you showed up for us. Whether behind the scenes or face to face, your care, dedication, and steady support shaped our experience and helped make this campus feel like home.

To our peers, we did this together. We shared the long nights, the stress, the wins, and the moments we will never forget. What started as a group of individuals became a community, built on resilience, collaboration, and a whole lot of determination. The connections we've made here will carry forward into everything that comes next.

This journey has been more than academics. It has been about the experience we built together, the challenges we overcame side by side, and the sense of belonging that defines New Mexico Tech.

As we look ahead, we also recognize a new chapter for the university itself. We extend our congratulations and a warm welcome to Dr. Jackson as the 19th President of New Mexico Tech. We are excited for the future of this institution and confident that the spirit of community, innovation, and togetherness that shaped our time here will continue to grow under his leadership.

As we cross this stage, we carry forward not only what we have learned, but who we have become because of this place and each other.

With gratitude and pride,

*The New Mexico Tech Class of 2026*



*M*

# CLASS OF 2026

## THIS IS YOUR MOMENT

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Congratulations, Class of 2026.

What you've accomplished at New Mexico Tech is no small feat. You've taken on challenges, pushed your limits, and proven that you belong among some of the most driven problem-solvers anywhere.

Now you step into what comes next, not just as graduates, but as Tech alumni. You carry forward a tradition of curiosity, grit, and real-world impact that reaches far beyond campus.

Once a Techie, forever a Techie.

Wherever your path leads, know that you are part of a community that stays connected, shows up for one another, and takes pride in what it means to be a Techie.

We are excited to see what you build, discover, and change.

Welcome to the New Mexico Tech alumni family.

Sandi Lucero  
Director of Alumni Affairs





Move in

DAY



**WELCOME**

**BACK**

**BBO**





**NEW**

**STUDENTS**

**WELCOME**





PARENT

WEEKEND



# HALLOWEEN







# 49ERS BLOCK PARTY



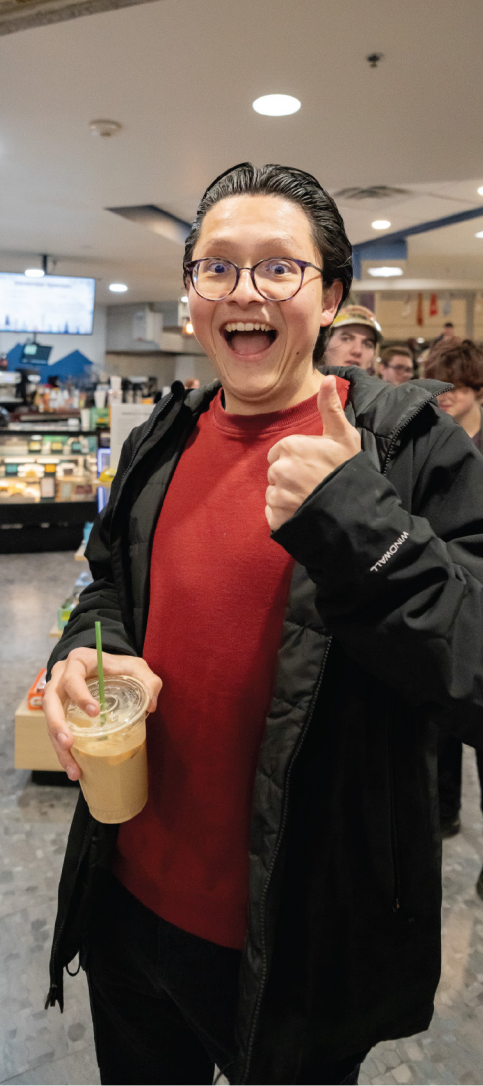


NIGHT



PARADE



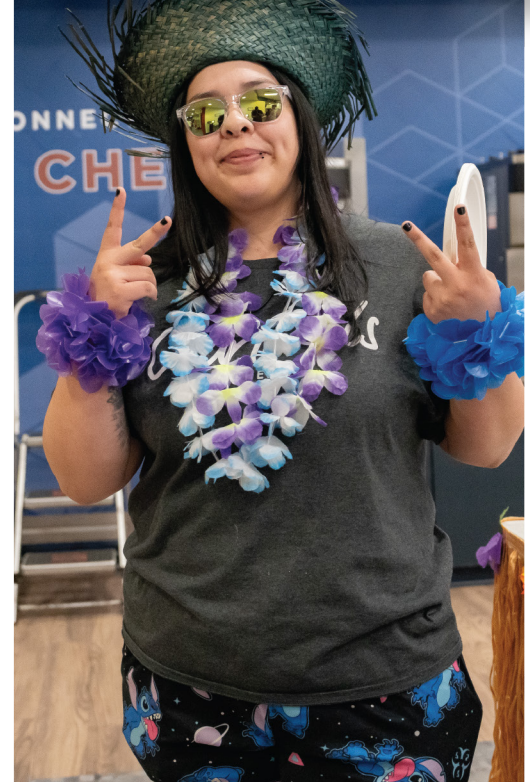


# LATE NIGHT





# BREAKFAST





MENS RUGBY

CHAMPIONSHIPS



WOMEN'S



RUGBY



CHAMPIONSHIPS



# E-SPORTS





# NATIONALS







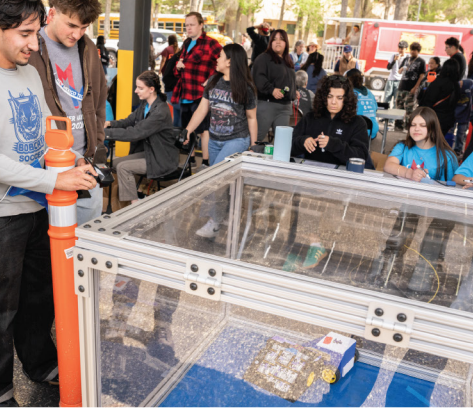


# NMT



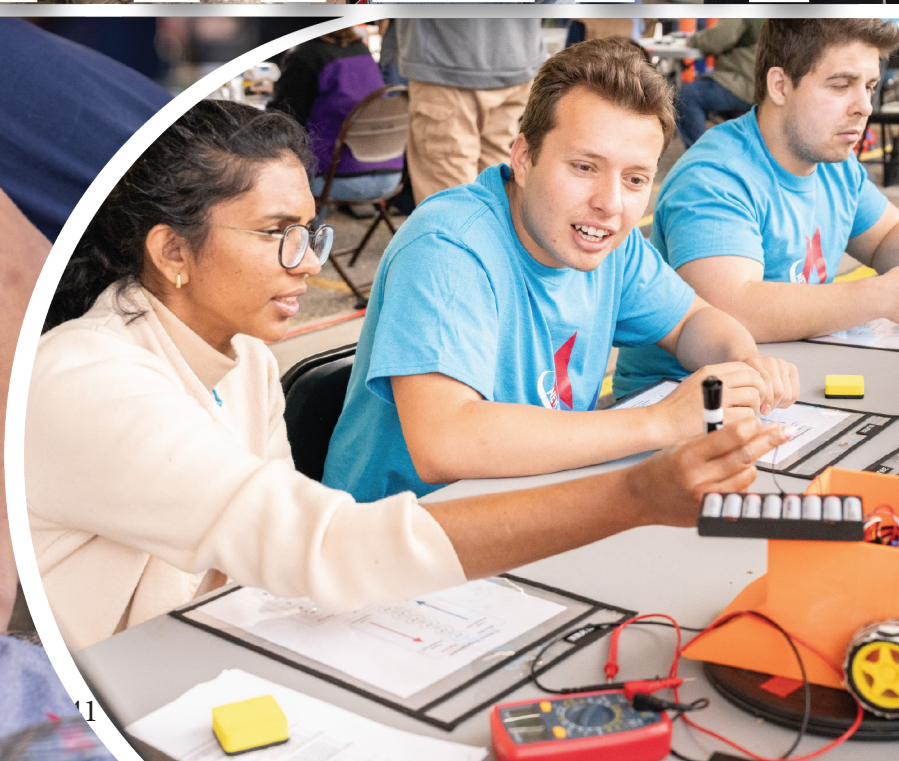
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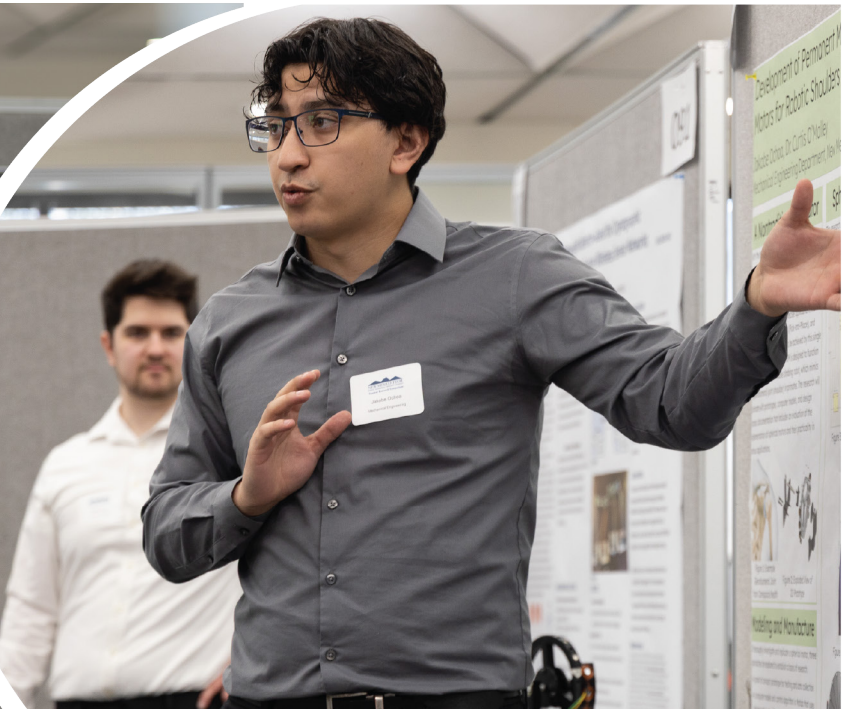
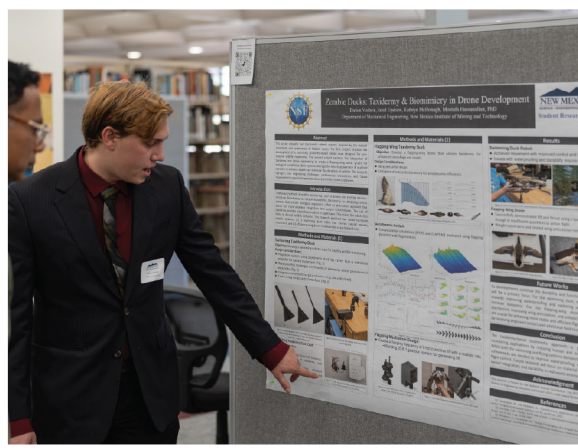


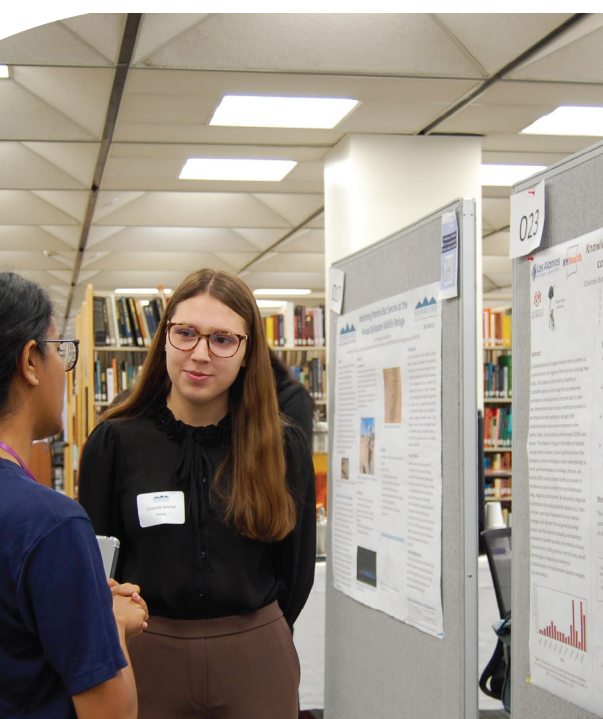
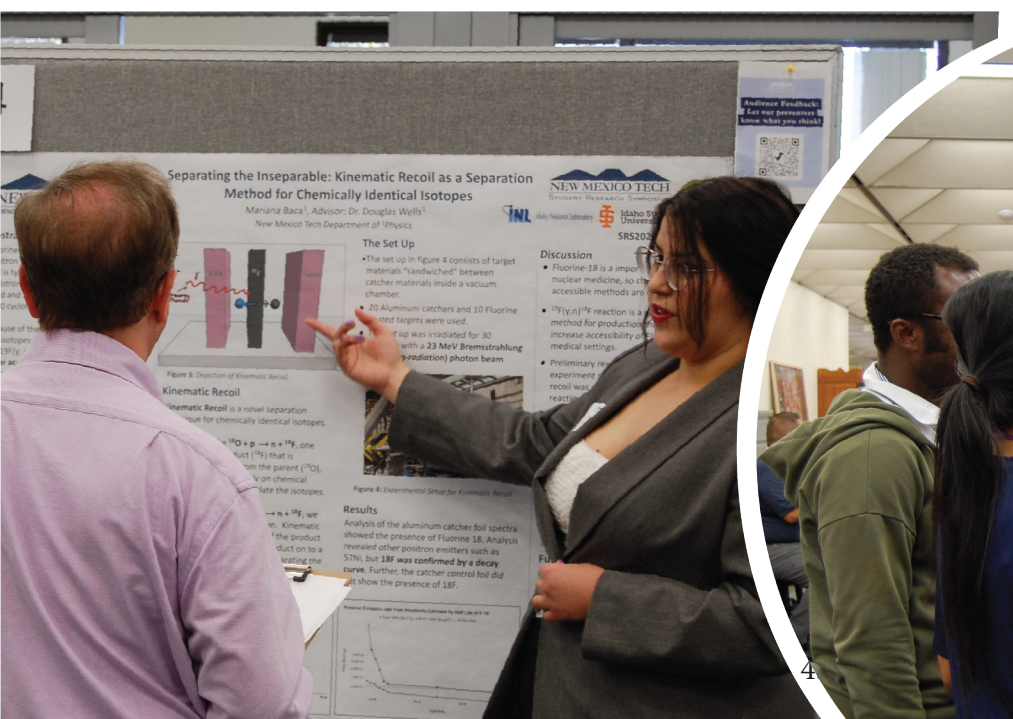
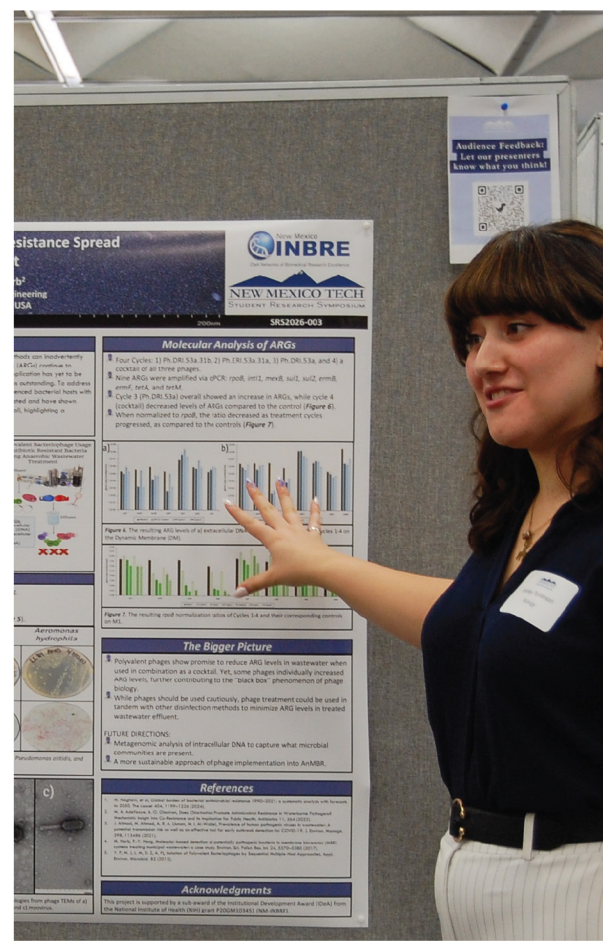
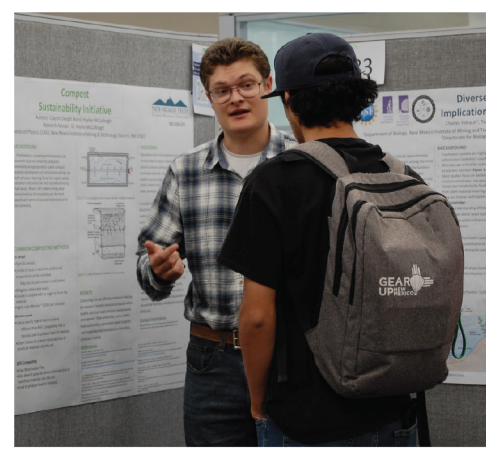
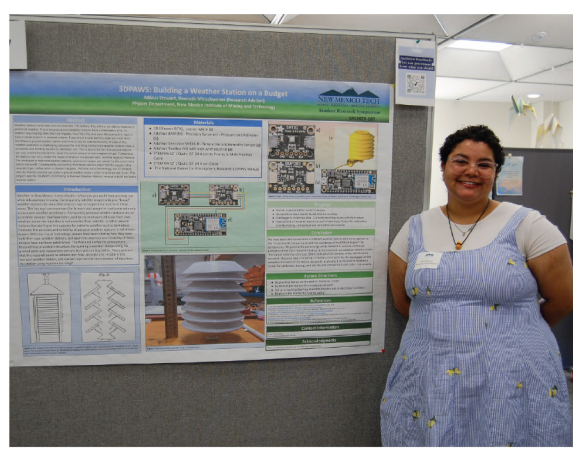




# MAYHEM









# MOUNTAIN





RUN



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