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This report showcases a few of the many achievements and initiatives seen throughout the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) during the 2021-2022 academic year. The report provides a brief overview of the college followed by a targeted breakdown of initiatives as they relate to NMSU LEADS 2025. Finally, the report concludes by discussing goals for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Enrico Pontelli
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Mission
The College of Arts and Sciences is the intellectual core of New Mexico State University, providing cutting-edge academic programs supported by active research and creative activities. The College provides the foundational education for every NMSU student and a wide array of degrees preparing students to be life-long learners, knowledgeable and responsible citizens of our world.

Vision
By 2025, the College of Arts and Sciences will excel in promoting academic success and social mobility for a diverse student population, and sustain the university-wide vision of achieving the highest Carnegie research status (R1) through exceptional research programs and creative activities that will contribute to the social and economic development of communities locally, state-wide, and nation-wide.

Values
Central to the College of Arts and Sciences land-grant mission our core values are:

- **Curiosity**: We support curious minds by promoting education and research that is rigorous, challenging, and demands an eagerness to learn.
- **Collaboration**: We are invested in cross-disciplinary opportunities that enable students of all backgrounds to develop future-proof skills.
- **Self-expression**: We welcome students' creative interests, exploration of new ideas, and passions.
- **Representation**: We value an inclusive education and recognize diversity as a strength and an opportunity for excellence and success.
The Dean’s Council is an advisory council of volunteers who use their knowledge and influence to further the College’s goals and to participate in ensuring future success. The mission of the Dean’s Council is to support the College of Arts and Sciences Dean, faculty, and students in the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, service, and outreach.

Not Pictured:
Bibi Phillippou
Sharon Trujillo-Kolosseus
Jenny Ziggler
The College welcomed six new faculty for the '21 academic year.

Dr. Trainor co-leads the Systems Bioscience Research Group, which focuses on the development and application of bioinformatic methodologies for the analysis of metabolomics, lipidomics, and proteomics data generated using mass spectrometry; high-throughput molecular biology and biochemistry approaches with human patient samples to understand heart attacks and thrombotic events at the molecular level; and use of epidemiological and biostatistical approaches to understand the genetic, clinical, physiological, and environmental factors that underly cardiovascular disease event risk using population-based cohort studies.

Dr. Tello-Aburto's research group is interested in the synthesis of bioactive natural products and their derivatives, as well as the study of their structure-activity relationships. Another interest is the development of novel synthetic methodologies to allow rapid access to these biologically relevant molecules and their analogues.
Dr. Reynolds is a researcher in the areas of Web security and authentication, with an emphasis on user-centric system evaluation. Joshua builds collaborations with security professionals to ground his research in real-world data. His research goals include innovating on the way Web browsers convey identity, authorship, and trust to enable users to make more accurate security, privacy, and trust decisions. He has collaborated with researchers at Chrome, Cloudflare, UCB, Stanford, UIUC, BYU, and Kryptowire. His work has appeared in prestigious conferences including USENIX, IEEE S&P, and ACM CHI.

Before being hired as a College Track faculty member, Michelle Granger was a long-time adjunct faculty member of the Department of English and a graduate of New Mexico State University (with both her B.A. and M.A. degrees). She has taught a range of general education courses at NMSU (main campus) and DACC for 8 years, including Composition I, Professional & Technical Communication, Introduction to Literature, and Writing in the Social Science and Humanities. Michelle brings professional writing in a business context to her work and emphasizes collaboration, technology, and pedagogical reflectivity and responsiveness in her classes.
Dr. Nur Cooley is interested in how the cultural ➞ digital ➞ global ➞ local all intersect to impact and inform us individually, and how we then interact as parts of larger communities within and across the world to make sense of things. Dr. Nur Coole is also curious about how we come to call certain knowledge in academia—more specifically—who has the power to create knowledge, and how can we broaden and extend that power to other ways of knowing?

Suban Nur Cooley
Associate Professor
English

Lisa has worked in theatres in both the Seattle and Richmond areas, including Virginia Repertory Theatre (Richmond, VA) and the 5th Avenue Theatre (Seattle, WA), as well as multiple years in theatre education in Seattle. In addition to working with published and classic pieces, Lisa also focuses on new work. Her current project is a musical on the question of immigration, the first draft of which was developed and workshopped in Richmond, VA as a culmination of her graduate work.

Lisa Hermanson
Assistant Professor
Theater
BY THE NUMBERS

ENROLLMENT

244
Faculty Members

4,140
Undergraduate Students

671
Graduate Students

ACADEMICS

275
Journal Articles Published

42
Conference Proceedings

98
Publications (textbooks, scholarly books, edited volumes, and non-scholarly books)

RESEARCH CENTER

$85M
Requested Funding Grants & Contracts

$20M
Funding Awarded Grants & Contracts

125
Grants & Contracts Submitted
FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

Arts and Sciences Awards

Exempt Staff Award
Martha Estrada - Interdisciplinary Studies
Yvette Cortez - Interdisciplinary Studies
Ricardo Trejo - Interdisciplinary Studies
Tamara Carruthers - Theatre Arts
Jasmine Herrera - Art

Non-Exempt Staff Award
Cynthia Bartow - Interdisciplinary Studies
Marisela Chavez - Physics
Rena Crollett - Music

Outstanding Faculty Outreach
Steven Smyth - Music

Outstanding Faculty Teaching
Motoko Furuhashi - Art

Outstanding Faculty Scholarship
Wladimir Lyra - Astronomy

Outstanding Department Head
Shelley Lusetti - Chemistry

S.P. Manasse and Margaret
Manasse Endowed Fund Award
Liz Horodowich - History

University-Wide Awards

NMSU Roush Award
Derek Chase - Creative Media Institute
Maria Dimitrijevic - Criminal Justice

Christmore Awards for Teaching Excellence:
Kathryn Olszowy - Anthropology
Matt Sievert - Physics
CREATIVE WORKS

160
Musical Performances

40
Screenings at national and international film festivals

44
National and international exhibits at museums and galleries

28
Theatrical Performances, Productions, and Plays Directed

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

$650,910
Total Amount Awarded for the 2021-2022 Aid Year

656
Number of Students Awarded for the 2021-2022 Aid Year

263
Number of Scholarships Awarded for the 2021-2022 Aid Year
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & STUDENT SERVICES
The resiliency shown by our students is unmatched. Between Summer 2021 and Spring 2022, the College awarded 1,128 degrees and certificates to students who successfully completed the requirements for graduation.

**Breakdown of Bachelor's Degrees**

- **BARTS**: 41.8%
- **BSG**: 0.4%
- **BSCI**: 20.1%
- **BMUSED**: 0.7%
- **BIS**: 11%
- **BFNART**: 1%
- **BCM**: 7.8%
- **BCJ**: 15.9%
- **BAS**: 0.9%
STUDENT AWARDS

FALL 2021

Undergraduate Awards:
Alumni Association Outstanding Graduate
Teresa Fuentes - English

Undergraduate Award for Excellence
Yarely Ogaz - Computer Science

Outstanding Undergraduate Award
Andrea Marañón Laguna - Anthropology
Mackenzie Isom - Government and History

Undergraduate Award for Excellence
Yarely Ogaz - Computer Science

Outstanding Graduate Award
Emma Dahl - Astronomy

Outstanding Student Service Award
Jasmine Recinos - Government and Spanish

Highest Honors
Bernabe Jaramillo - Criminal Justice

Yarely Ogaz

Tonya Suther
STUDENT AWARDS

SPRING 2022

Undergraduate Awards:
Alumni Association Outstanding Graduate
Jenna Dunlap – Art

Undergraduate Award for Excellence
Brennan Ramsey – Government

Outstanding Undergraduate Award
Riley Merritt – Theatre Arts
Emilee Montoya – Anthropology
Katalina Lopez – Biology

Outstanding Student Service Award
Ana Flavia Suarez – Government
Bhargavi Kalaga – Government

Highest Honors
Emily Radell – English

Graduate Awards:
Graduate Award for Excellence
Rachel Marra – Astronomy

Outstanding Graduate Award
Angela Stevenson – History
Dina Perlasca – Fine Arts
Dorcas Anabire – English

Dina Perlasca
Riley Merritt
Emily Radell
The College is extremely proud of the many accomplishments made by its students. Below we feature a few student achievements representative of the greater student population.

**Haley Woolf**, a Physics student, was named the Ken Hass Outstanding Student Paper by the American Physical Society (APS) Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics (FIAP) for her paper titled "Optical and x-ray characterization of Ge–Sn alloy on GaAs".

**Jack Black**, a Digital Filmmaking Student, was one of four students selected, from across the nation, for a prestigious internship with ESPN for the Spring 2022 semester.

**Pricilla Gandara**, a Music Education student, will spend the summer in Austria for a month-long intensive program where students will partake in voice and acting lessons.

**Jamie Lee Justice**, a Philosophy student, graduated with a B.A. in Justice, Political Philosophy, and Law. Jamie has accepted a full scholarship to attend PACE Law School, ranked number one in Environmental Law by U.S. News and World Report.
2021 - 2022 Initiatives

- **Undergraduate and Graduate Recruitment Events**— During the 2020-2021 academic year, the college participated in 11 unique recruitment-specific events for undergraduate and graduate students. Event locations included higher education institutions across New Mexico and El Paso and local area high schools. In addition, the inclusion of several virtual events allowed for the recruitment of students on a national level. In total, approximately 950 prospective undergraduate and 70 prospective graduate students were connected to the college through these events.

- **Campus Visits**— The College of Arts and Sciences welcomed prospective undergraduate students and their families for individual and small group visits throughout the year. These visits included 40 students during Fall 2021 and 86 students during Spring 2022. Large group visits were also coordinated and supported in partnership with NMSU Undergraduate Admissions. In total, four large group visits served 360 high school students from high schools in Las Cruces, El Paso, and Denver.

- **Outreach Events**— A variety of in-person and online opportunities for engagement with community and academic partners occurred throughout the year. Highlights included providing hands-on activities from academic departments for New Mexico MESA’s Southwest Rally event and representing the college to prospective students at MESA College Night. These two events reached a combined 220 New Mexico high school students. Online outreach included five academic discipline-specific presentations for high school involvement and non-profit groups based in Albuquerque and Kansas City, MO. On-campus outreach included providing information and activities for groups visiting from Aggie Next Step and Centennial High School ENLACE, and visiting with prospective students during FFA Fest hosted by the College of ACES. In partnership with the NMSU Graduate School, the college also staffed a virtual booth at the SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference to provide information to conference attendees and recruit prospective graduate students.
2021 - 2022 Initiatives

- **Aggie Experience and Aggie Welcome & Orientation**— The return of in-person Aggie Experience and Aggie Welcome & Orientation (AWO) events allowed the college to increase involvement and reach additional prospective and incoming students with information related to their academic interests. The College increased involvement by participating in campus partner resource fairs and offering engaging hands-on experiences for visiting families at Aggie Experience from departments including Art, Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Criminal Justice, Creative Media, Journalism and Media Studies, Philosophy, and Theatre Arts. During AWO, the college took additional steps to engage with students by hosting a welcome tabling event and piloting a virtual scavenger hunt to increase student involvement on campus.

- **New College Recruitment Materials**—To better reflect the diversity of academic departments and cutting-edge research and creative endeavors of the college, a new brochure concept was developed, designed, and printed with local businesses. This piece is intended to showcase a sampling of programs offered through the college with an emphasis on student involvement opportunities and potential careers. The brochure will be distributed at undergraduate recruitment events for the 2022-2023 academic year, and a Spanish language translation is currently underway. In addition, two new email messages were developed and embedded within communication campaigns administered by Undergraduate Admissions targeted toward prospective students who indicate interest in a major housed within the college. Recipients are invited to respond to the message directly, shortening the steps needed to connect to the college and receive additional information on academic majors and the university application process.
2021 - 2022 Initiatives

During the '21-'22 academic year, the College of Arts and Sciences began several new initiatives designed to support its students.

- **Aggie Accelerate** - In March 2021, Dr. Renay Scott elected to bring back a smaller iteration of the Aggie Jumpstart Program. The College worked closely with the Student Success Center to plan and facilitate this summer program for incoming freshman students. In total, the 2021 program hosted 34 students. Further, a one-week program was also hosted in June 2022 with 20 student participants.

- **A&S Unplugged** - The College hosted a workshop for first-generation, transfer, and low-income students in an effort to answer candid questions that they may have and provide guidance as they navigate their first year. Approximately 30 students attended.

- **A&S Welcome Back** - The College welcomed back students, staff, and faculty as part of the University's Welcome Week with an ice cream social. The event was well attended with 300+ guests.

- **Expansion of Pete's Pathfinders** - During the Fall '21 semester, the college expanded its peer mentor program. The program, designed to provide incoming freshman students with a peer mentor to introduce them to campus resources, answer questions, and provide guidance, hosted 25 mentors and 49 mentees.

- **FALLing in Love with Arts and Sciences** - In an effort to provide students with an opportunity to engage with departments and student organizations affiliated with the College, the College hosted a fall festival with various departments and student organizations represented.

- **Graduate Student Orientation and Teaching Assistant Support** - To better equip graduate students and Teaching Assistants with tools for success, the College hosted an orientation for incoming Spring graduate students. The College also hosted ongoing workshops for Teaching Assistants to discuss triumphs and challenges they faced in the classroom.
2022 - 2023 Goals

The College intends to continue expanding its offerings to further support students in the upcoming academic year through:

- **Aggie Jumpstart** - After a two-year break, the Aggie Jumpstart will resume in August 2022. The four-week program, in partnership with the Student Success Center, seeks to provide incoming first-time freshmen students with the opportunity to get a jump start on their Math studies. The program will also provide co-curricular activities to support a more holistic experience. There will be 20 student participants.

- **Capstone and Internship Course** - In Fall 2022, the College will pilot two new courses aimed at preparing students to obtain either full-time employment or an internship.

- **Student Leadership Course** - The College will implement a leadership development course for student volunteers serving as A&S student ambassadors and/or as part of Pete's Pathfinders. This course includes a focus on public relations, A&S undergraduate degree programs, campus resources, and service.

- **Targeted Data Acquisition** - The College will host focus groups, and deploy surveys, with its students (sophomore/junior) and graduating seniors to identify opportunities for improvement and to close gaps in their academia.
GOAL 1:
ENHANCE STUDENT SUCCESS AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Aggie Accelerate
In August 2021, the College of Arts and Sciences launched the Aggie Accelerate Program to help incoming students find success throughout their academic careers at New Mexico State University.

Designed to assist students to prepare for success in college-level English and mathematics, the two-week program offers students skills enhancement, English and mathematics instruction provided by NMSU faculty, and provides students opportunities to acclimate to the NMSU campus. Through a cohort model, students engage in a co-curricular and residential-based experience prior to the start of the fall semester. In 2021, the program hosted 26 incoming students. The program was also held in June 2022 with 21 student participants.
Summer Faculty-Led International Program (FLiP)

In May, the Department of Languages and Linguistics sponsored two back-to-back FLiP trips. For the first, “French Language, Culture and Civilization”, 16 students spent two weeks in Paris, with morning language courses at the Accord Language School and afternoon excursions and explorations throughout the city. The combination of homestays with local residents, language classes, city visits, and mentoring enabled students to become more confident in their skills and in their ability to navigate an international city.

Immediately following the France trip, Professor Lucy Zollner led a two-week German-language trip to Vienna. The ten participating students in “Viennese History & Lebenskunst: Vienna” took courses at the Austro-American Institute of Education, spent afternoons exploring the sites of historical, architectural, social, and cultural interests in the city, and enjoyed a full-day excursion to Salzburg. Also on the homestay model, this FLiP trip helped facilitate students to be global citizens. Plans are underway for a repeat of both courses in May of 2024.

M.A in Professional and Technical Communication

The English Department launched a new, fully online M.A in Professional and Technical Communication, which integrates existing courses and faculty expertise with three newly developed courses and a new faculty specialist in user experience and cultural localization. As the program is developed, all courses will enroll online MA students and on-campus MA and Ph.D. students in Rhetoric and Professional Communication. This leverages existing resources while faculty advertise the program, and build capacity.
New Bachelor's Programs

**Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics** - During the 2021-2022 academic year, the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) approved a new interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics to be delivered by the Department of Languages and Linguistics, complementing its Bachelor’s programs in foreign languages. Dr. Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza is the advisor for the program and has long been its more ardent champion.

**Bachelor of Arts in Music** - NMHED also approved a new Bachelor of Arts in Music, complementing more specialized existing Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degrees. Through specialized concentrations, students can prepare for music careers focusing on marketing, management, alternative media, or growing applications in wellness and healthcare fields.

**Mathematics concentration in Probability and Statistics** - Mathematical Sciences introduced a concentration in Probability and Statistics. The 2021 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data indicates an average salary for statisticians at $95,570 and projects the field to have a rapid growth of 33% over the coming decade. Probability and statistics are essential in finance, industry, insurance, data science, biomedical research, agriculture, and many other fields.

**Journalism Partners with NBC Universal**
NMSU’s Journalism and Media Studies department was chosen to be an affiliate program with the NBCU Academy, which not only came with $150,000 in scholarship money and $25,000 for equipment, but also a number of opportunities for Journalism and CMI majors to connect with professionals working directly for various areas within NBC Universal, including Telemundo and the Today Show. Additionally, Journalism and CMI majors are eligible for the NBCU Embed Program, a 2-year internship in which recent grads can apply for positions to work in a variety of areas within NBC, ultimately resulting in a job that best suits the individual’s strengths.
GOAL 2: ELEVATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Criminal Justice Research Methods Poster Session

Drs. Posadas and Cho coordinated their CJUS 300 (Introduction to Research Methods) classes in Spring 2022 to involve students completing a research proposal in infographic poster form. Students conducted research projects on various criminal justice topics including but not limited to – recidivism, gun violence, death penalty, substance abuse, and domestic violence. A total of over 60 students successfully presented their final projects on Friday, April 29, 2022.
Representative NMSU University Art Museum (UAM) External Funding:

Grants for Arts Projects: Visual Arts- Contemporary Ex-Voto Devotion Beyond Medium ($40,000) - The NEA grant to the University Art Museum will support “Contemporary Ex-Votos: Devotion Beyond Medium,” a two-part exhibition displaying 19th and 20th century retablos from the NMSU Permanent Art Collection alongside new works by Latinx artists, which will open in September 2022.

NMSU University Museum Capacity Building Support (Program Grants) ($300,000) - Situated within NMSU a Hispanic-serving land grant institution, the UAM serves as an academic environment for the critical analysis of visual art while making culturally relevant and provocative conceptual art and artists accessible to the region. As the only contemporary art museum in southern New Mexico, the UAM is a cultural bridge between the expansive borderplex community and NMSU. This grant will allow the UAM to meet its goals of crafting an updated mission statement, setting up support structures for artists and community members to thrive in an equitable arts ecosystem in southern New Mexico, and impacting the way artists and audiences understand the borderlands regional culture. The UAM will further expand upon its successful community collaborations and build career pathways for arts professionals in New Mexico. UAM’s Thoma Foundation grant will allow the museum to expand its capacity by hiring a Curator of Education and Preparator. Both new roles will be teaching positions that will engage students in the process of programming and mounting exhibitions.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation ($300,000) - In light of the COVID pandemic and renewed calls for social justice, the NMSU University Art Museum is dedicated to promoting equity across the arts ecosystem, from artists to collections to audiences. The Art Museum Futures Fund (AMFF) would support the next stage of growth: improving operations to create open online access to pertinent projects of marginalized artists and creating a system to support underrepresented artists throughout their process—from research to exhibition to acquisition of works.

Total awarded for FY 2021-2022: $682,000
Three Minute Thesis

After a multi-year hiatus, the College, in collaboration with the Graduate School, welcomed back its Three Minute Thesis event. The Three-Minute Thesis competition is a great way to help our students practice presenting their research goals and methods in a public setting. This year's event featured 21 students from across the university with prizes up to $1,000. Anna Harmon, a Molecular Biology graduate student, took home the top prize with her presentation entitled “The Effects of Hypergravity on Seed Germination and Root Extensions in Crop Plants.”

Korean Culture & Media Technology Workshop

Assistant Professor Dr. Gain Park organized and hosted the international Korean Culture & Media Technology workshop in October 2021. This workshop connected NMSU students with international leaders and media experts to discuss the future challenges and opportunities in the media and entertainment industry.
Surveillance along the Rio Grande during the 2020 Vesicular Stomatitis Outbreak Reveals Spatio-Temporal Dynamics of and Viral RNA Detection in Black Flies

Vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) causes the disease vesicular stomatitis, characterized by lesions on the face, abdomen and legs of horses, cattle and other hoofed livestock. It is estimated that outbreaks of VSV have an economic impact of approximately $15,000 per affected ranch. VSV is transmitted by blood-feeding insects, but it is not currently known which insects are most important in transmission and how the abundance of key insect vectors changes over space and time. This study, which was led by Drs. Katherine Young and Federico Valdez, two post-doctoral fellows in the Hanley lab, investigated the distribution and VSV infection of black flies along the southern reach of the Rio Grande during the 2020 VSV outbreak in New Mexico. Two NMSU undergraduates, Tina Vaquera and Carlos Campos, and one recent graduate of the NMSU Biology Masters program, Lawrence Zhou, assisted with black fly collection and molecular barcoding to identify black fly species. All the researchers put in a heroic effort to conduct this work during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. They found black fly abundance surged shortly after the flow of the Rio Grande was released from upstream dams in March of 2020, and VSV cases occurred in concert with this initial jump in black fly abundance. A variety of black fly species were found to be positive for the virus, suggesting a broad network of host-vector contacts. This is the first time VSV has been documented in black flies away from premises in which VSV-positive livestock occurred. This research will help livestock producers better anticipate VSV outbreaks and mitigate the exposure of their animals.
GOAL 3: AMPLIFY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Picnic - The College expanded its homecoming activities to include an Alumni Picnic where this year's Distinguished Alumni were recognized and Aggie Alumni could mingle with one another.

Night at the Museums - The College hosted its inaugural Night at the Museums fundraising event. The event, benefiting the NMSU Aggie Jumpstart Program, provided community members with the opportunity to spend an evening under the stars at the NMSU University Museum and NMSU Art Museum. Guests viewed the night sky through demonstrations sponsored by the Astronomy Department, live music provided by students in the Music Department, listened to various poetry readings, and purchased student artwork.
Geography Partners with TRIO Upward Bound

The Geography Department hosted students in the TRIO – Upward Bound event on June 13-17. As part of the instruction, Dr. Dan Dugas, a physical geographer and geomorphologist, introduced students to different map scales by showing them different-sized maps of the Las Cruces area. Next, the students viewed stereo pairs of images to identify the topography. A story map of a landslide set the stage for a stream table demonstration of the impact caused by changing river flow patterns. Graduate assistants Pablo Viramontes and Samantha Valencia provided one-on-one assistance to students as they worked through the various activities. Students were introduced to remote sensing approaches such as using drones or satellite images for environmental quantification. Two citizen science activities had students collect and organize data for an inventory of trees, produce a general statistical summary, and map the trees on Google Earth. Recent graduate Amber Ransom demonstrated the use of the handheld spectral radiometer.
Gila Film School
The Gila Film School (GFS) is the pilot project of the SoNM EMC, offered in partnership with the US Forest Service, through a 2022 USFS Youth and Veterans Engagement Grant. The GFS will involve CMI students spending 13 days in a documentary field school in the Gila in July of 2022, making films that will become a showcase used by the US Forest Service for the 100-year celebration of the Gila Wilderness. GFS will train and empower a diverse group of young environmental content creators, as the majority of selected students represent Latinx and BIPOC demographics. The showcase, and related curricular materials, will be sent to 4th-grade classes across NM, NM's public television network, distributed across USFS media platforms, and film festivals, including the 2023 Las Cruces International Film Festival to an audience of over 10,000 people.
Planets in the Desert - A Streaming Instability Code Comparison

Top astronomy researchers in the field of planet formation came together as New Mexico State University hosted an international conference on campus June 1-3 sponsored by NASA's Theoretical and Computational Astrophysics Networks (TCAN) program. Wladimir Lyra, NMSU Assistant Professor of Astronomy, received the three-year grant from The National Science Foundation and NASA to collaborate with other universities to pursue research on how planets form. Titled “Planets in the Desert - A Streaming Instability Code Comparison,” the three-day event hosted participants both in-person and online. The conference wrapped up with a hike up “A” Mountain and a visit to the Tortugas Observatory.
Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers Summer Program
Through hands-on mentorship, technology, and training, the Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers program empowers students to discover new problem-solving skills and learn about career opportunities in technology fields. Students who participated in the program feel more confident in their STEM capabilities and are interested in taking more STEM-related classes. They also said that they enjoyed the program more than traditional learning experiences. Some specific topics and technologies covered in the program include design thinking, 3D printing, augmented reality, and social entrepreneurship.

The New Mexico State University Climate Change Education Seminar Series
The New Mexico State University Climate Change Education Seminar Series (NMSUCCESS) is an interdisciplinary series bringing a range of experts to NMSU and venues in Las Cruces to promote informed discussion of the causes, consequences, and solutions to climate change. The seminar series brings three speakers to NMSU each semester in both virtual and in-person venues. The series is sponsored by the NMSU Office of Strategic Initiatives, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, the Honors College, the Creative Media Institute, and the Department of Geological Sciences.
Walking with Herb

Walking With Herb, directed by Assistant Professor Ross Marks and Associate Professor Mitch Fowler serving as Director of Photography, is the largest independent film in New Mexico history and had a major theatrical release in over 1500 theaters nationwide in April 2021. Academy Award-nominated actor Edward James Olmos played the lead role and Executive Produced. Comedy superstar George Lopez, Academy Award nominee Kathleen Quinlan, Christopher McDonald, and Billy Boyd also star in the film. The band TRAIN created an original song for the soundtrack. The film was purchased and released by Pureflix, a division of Sony Entertainment and Universal Pictures.

Dr. Fraune appointment at Amazon

Dr. Fraune is currently a Visiting Academic Scientist at Amazon, where she is part of a team of scientists working to improve the use of robots to assist human workers. Dr. Fraune uses her expertise in social psychology and human-robot interaction to work closely with the people robots will support to help improve the robots to meet their needs. Dr. Fraune’s experience working with Amazon helps her mentor and teach students to prepare them for these emerging positions. She is organizing a three-part workshop for psychology, computer science, and engineering students to connect them with Amazon scientists and recruiters to help them prepare for industry internships and jobs.
GOAL 4:
BUILD A ROBUST ARTS AND SCIENCES COLLEGE SYSTEM
Updated Branding
The 2021-2022 academic year saw the college make a shift toward rebranding our identity. Emphasis was placed on better communicating the innovative and welcoming fabric that weaves our academics, research, and creative endeavors into an ever-changing tapestry. The college worked alongside Heart + Mind Strategies for five months to develop all new language reflecting our brand positioning. Careful consideration was given to populations served by the college, the unique needs the college fills in the broader NMSU community, and the trajectory of the college in the years to come as reflected in the LEADS 2025 Strategic Goals. Currently and in the coming months, the college will take steps to incorporate the language and values reflected in this revamped identity into ongoing and new initiatives.

Central to the College of Arts and Sciences land-grant mission our core values are:

- **Curiosity**: We support curious minds by promoting education and research that is rigorous, challenging, and demands an eagerness to learn.
- **Collaboration**: We are invested in cross-disciplinary opportunities that enable students of all backgrounds to develop future-proof skills.
- **Self-expression**: We welcome students' creative interests, exploration of new ideas, and passions.
- **Representation**: We value an inclusive education and recognize diversity as a strength and an opportunity for excellence and success.

**Our Promise: Freedom to shape your curiosity into a career worth the pursuit**
Wastewater Initiative

In Summer 2021 the College of Arts & Sciences collaborated with the NMSU Department of Biology, the NMSU College of Engineering, the NMSU College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, with Dona Ana Community College, and with NMSU leadership to establish the NMSU Wastewater SARS-CoV-2 Testing Laboratory / Surveillance Program. Ms. Rakhila Mamenova is the Lab Coordinator.

The Wastewater Testing Laboratory is located at the Arrowhead Genesis Center, where twice-weekly wastewater samples collected from 7 NMSU/DACC campus locations are processed to extract and concentrate any SARS-CoV-2 virus present in the sample, isolating virus genetic material. These final concentrated samples are subsequently analyzed at the NMSU Food and Safety laboratory, where the virus presence in each sample is quantified using the Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) technique. Wastewater analysis results have shown generally minimal virus presence within the campus-collected wastewater samples, with the few occurrences of increased virus presence detected in the wastewater corresponding with increased positivity among nasal sample analyses of the local population. In addition to the nominal wastewater testing methodology being employed, several additional wastewater testing methodologies have been experimentally investigated.
'22-'23 GOAL 1: ENHANCE STUDENT SUCCESS AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

Objective 1: Increase, Diversify and Optimize Undergraduate Enrollment
- Coordinate K-12 promotion of A&S degree programs
- Develop printed and electronic degree promotion materials
- Expand the presence of A&S degree programs within NMSU-O
- Market the BAS programs for students with an Associate's Degree
- Create suggested pathways for BIS program

Objective 2: Increase, Diversify and Optimize Graduate Enrollment
- Develop a graduate recruitment network across the state
- Expand understanding and use of MAP by launching a MAP-specific webpage, writing common language, and creating program flyer
- Expand the presence of A&S degree programs within NMSU-O

Objective 3: Increase Student Learning, Retention, and Degree Attainment
- Post roadmaps on departmental websites and link to schedule
- Conduct focus groups on “what can we do better”
- Explore a community-based student aid program

Objective 4: Develop a sense of belonging to Arts & Sciences
- Develop a national student and alumni networking program

Objective 5: Strengthen Career Pathways through Service Learning, Experiential Learning and Research Engagement
- Evolve and strengthen the Discovery Scholars Program
- Develop an Arts & Sciences National Advisory Board
Objective 1: Contribute to Research and Creative Activities

- Establish an internal infrastructure to offer proposal review services to faculty members
- Develop programs to recognize and reward successful highly competitive awards
- Explore a pilot program for seed funding for interdisciplinary proposal teams
- Collaborate with Arrowhead Center for student Entrepreneurship opportunities
- In Spring 2022, the College supported the submission of a proposal to the National Institutes of Health’s C06 Biomedical Research Facilities infrastructure funding program totaling $7.1 million. Dr. Tim Wright, Department of Biology, led the effort of revising a previous proposal to address feedback received from NIH’s expert review panel. The proposal would fund the construction of a wild animal research facility that will complement the laboratory animal research facility currently under construction on the NMSU campus with support from the New Mexico General Obligation bond funding approved by the voters of New Mexico in 2018 and 2020 as part of NMSU’s Agricultural Modernization effort. These new facilities will support faculty research and student training across NMSU’s colleges in such areas as viral disease emergence, cancer, neurobiology, aging, reproduction, and health disparities in border populations.

Objective 3: Grow Humanities, Social Sciences, and Creative Arts

- Help identify potential funding programs, especially at the intersection between STEM and non-STEM areas
'22-'23 GOAL 3: AMPLIFY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

Objective 1: Lead in Innovation, Economic and Community Development
- Assemble a task force to explore entrepreneurship training programs

Objective 2: PK-20 Outreach, Professional Development, and Continuing Education Programs
- Support the development of micro-credentials

Objective 3: Improve PK-20 STEM Education
- Catalog departmental initiatives and leverage them
- Coordinate development of transfer programs

Objective 4: Strengthen and Elevate Public-Private Engagement
- Explore the creation of a National Advisory Board
'21-'22 GOAL 4: BUILD A ROBUST ARTS & SCIENCES COLLEGE

Objective 1: Value and Support Inclusion and Diversity at All Levels
- Grow the EID workshop series
- Organize training events for faculty and graduate students on EID
- Enhance recruitment procedures to promote EID
- Develop a program to recognize scholarship and pedagogy supporting EID
- Incorporate EID-focused courses into General Education requirements
- Support the expansion of the Borderlands and Ethnic Studies (BEST) at the department level, including curriculum initiatives

Objective 2: Cultivate and Reward Faculty and Staff Excellence
- Develop Department Head training programs
- Develop a training program for P&T committees
- Grow junior faculty professional development programs

Objective 3: Establish Operational Excellence through Metric-drive and Service-oriented Approaches
- Implement regular departmental summaries based on data analytics

Objective 4: College-wide Strategic Priorities for Fundraising
- Ensure timely awarding of scholarships
- Redesign college-level fundraising goals
- Establish departmental expectations for fundraising