

Keeping up with the College

Dean's Message



Greetings from Las Cruces,

The monsoon is bringing rains, which are very welcomed in Las Cruces and in all of New Mexico, but at the same time we have to be on alert for the flash floods and landslides that can happen everywhere but especially in those areas where we have and had fires. All of you that are located in areas that can be affected by this phenomenon, please stay on alert. Anyhow, it is very nice to have rain in New Mexico to help us with the fires and to bring some much-needed moisture to tackle the drought.

We are happy to inform you that our science center in Mora, the John T. Harrington Forestry Research Center (JTH), was not directly affected by the fires. This science center is of major importance for ACES and NMSU and of fundamental

relevance to the US Southwest. Our staff is diligently working to bring it up to speed after a one-month closure due to fire threat that affected the geography of the locality. Due to the prompt attention of our personnel, expeditious actions were taken to relocate the seed bank to our Los Lunas Science Center, and the majority of our seedlings saved from damage. The ACES College is in the process of purchasing the land where the Mora Science Center is located. In ACES, we consider the JTH Forestry Research Center fundamental to our mission and are fully committed to expanding seed production and increasing faculty presence in the center. (More about the JTH center below)

This month I had the opportunity to participate in the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association meeting in Ruidoso, NM. It was a great opportunity to interact and visit with our ACES friends in the ranching industry. I had the opportunity to provide updates about the construction projects in the College, the new hires, and other programs that are very important for ranchers and farmers in New Mexico, programs that have strong economic impacts on the future of ranching in New Mexico. Dr. Craig Gifford from Extension Animal Sciences and Natural Resources gave a very timely presentation about the challenges the cattle industry is facing with the drought and food chain disruptions.

I also participated in meetings of the board of the NM Beef Council and NM Sheep Growers. There is strong support for the College, much appreciated, and I had the opportunity to listen to the concerns that some of them have and bring those concerns to Las Cruces. Conversations that I had with many of the ranchers were around the subjects of value-added markets for beef and sheep and about the ways they are tackling the drought, which is affecting them considerably.

These two important meetings underscore the importance of water management and value-added subjects that we are intensively working on in the College: You will see more in this newsletter. Also, in this newsletter you will find a link to download our [College of 2021 Annual](#)

Report, to better appreciate all the activities and the impacts that ACES College faculty, staff, and students have undertaken towards the benefit of New Mexicans.

Thank you for your support, and let's keep moving forward.

Rolando A Flores Galarza
Dean & Chief Administrative Officer



Relief programs available to agriculturalists impacted by wildfire

Fires across the state have caused a lot of hardship for families and industry partners! If any ag producers are in need of assistance they should work through their local Farm Service Agency.

Contact for San Miguel County will be Linda Alcon at: 505-652-3230 (direct line) or via email: Linda.Alcon@usda.gov

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers assistance to agriculturalists impacted by wildfire – including multiple programs to help during recovery and to mitigate risk on your operation. [To learn more about your options and how to enroll, contact your county FSA agent. New Mexico's directory can be accessed online at https://www.fsa.usda.gov/contact-us](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/contact-us) under 'FSA County Offices'.

There are an array of options when looking to enroll to receive emergency relief payments. Some programs to inquire about include:

- [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\)](#)
- [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#)
- [Emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres](#)
- [Livestock Forage Disaster Program \(LFP\)](#)
- [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#)

[Details and further programs can be found at https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/wildfire](https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/wildfire)

WATER FOR AGRICULTURE

For addressing drought and water scarcity issues, researchers from College of Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University are testing a micro-gravity drip irrigation systems at NMSU [Leyendecker Science Center](#).

The system is cheaper than pressurized system and uses less water than conventional irrigation methods. At first water flows into a holding tank. Then, by gravity, water flows through drip tapes to irrigate crops, Micro-gravity system can save farmers thousands of gallons of water per acre, because a farmer can control when to irrigate. Micro-gravity systems do not flood the field, instead applying water closer to the rootzone. Plastic trays can also be used to protect the roots, soil, improve rootzone microclimate, and direct rainwater towards the plant. The system can be used for chile and onions, and alfalfa as well as tree crops such as pecans.

Articles related to this system were also published in Las Cruces Sun News (<https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/news/education/nmsu/2022/06/11/nmsu-professor-working-expand-water-use-efficiency-southern-nm/7592832001/>) and televised on KRQE news on June 16.

For more information contact [Dr. Manoj Shukla](#) via email: shuklamk@nmsu.edu



4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

New Mexico State 4-H Shooting Sports Championships

During the first weekend on May 4-H youth from all over New Mexico travel to Raton to compete in the NM State 4-H Shooting Sports Championships. Counties bring up to two teams per discipline, each team with three to four members. Disciplines include Archery Compound, Archery Recurve, Air Rifle, Air Pistol, Small-Bore Pistol, .22 Rifle, Hunting, Muzzle-Loading, and Shotgun.

This year, 248 senior age division members (8th-12th grade) participated in the competition. Youth are educated about firearm safety, responsible behavior, and proficiency with their respective firearms. Experienced and well-trained adults serve as superintendents, range officers, and mentors for youth and ensure the safety of all involved. The top team from each discipline has the option of competing at nationals. This event allows youth to display their skills in a positive and safe environment while interacting with family, friends, and teammates.

For more information contact [Dr. Laura Bittner](mailto:lbittner@nmsu.edu) via email: lbittner@nmsu.edu



AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

The [John T. Harrington Forestry Research Center](#) at Mora has the largest forest nursery and seed bank in the southwestern US, with a growing capacity of 300,000 seedlings per year, using over 35 different native tree species.

Additionally, the research program at the research center is one of only five programs in the United States dedicated to investigating the



entire “reforestation pipeline” (from seed to nursery to tree planting), especially as it relates to post-fire reforestation.

Examples of long-term research conducted at the center include seed transfer guidelines in response to climate change, planting strategies that promote long-term improvements to water resources, and development of drought-conditioning seedlings for tree planting. Maintaining these long-term research plots at the research center is critical to restoring forest systems throughout the southwestern US.

Less than two months ago, the [JTH Forestry Research Center](#) in Mora was evacuated due to the largest wildfire in New Mexico history, the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire. This week, the center is faced with potential flooding and heavy rains. The combination of flooding after the intense damage from the fire puts the center at

risk for flood damage and potential landslides. Mora Research Center faculty and staff have worked to line the building with sand bags, build rock walls near the river side and are moving on-site staff away from the center until after the weather advisory subsides.

For more information contact [Claire Montoya](#) for more information via email: ccortner@nmsu.edu

The [Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center \(CDRRC\)](#) successfully co-hosted the annual Sustainable Southwest Beef Coordinated Agricultural Project (SSB CAP) Annual Meeting on May 23, 2022. The field day portion was a tremendous success, as cooperating scientists were able to highlight a portion of the long-term and ongoing research efforts that make the CDRRC such a valuable Agriculture Experiment Station to approximately forty guests from several external institutions.

The SSB CAP field day kicked off at a long-term grazing enclosure from 1954, where Drs. Zach Hurst and Matt McIntosh explained the history of grazing research at the CDRRC and solicited feedback regarding sustainability indicators, which the CDRRC, SSB CAP, and USDA-ARS scientists plan to implement to identify the capacity of novel research efforts. Additional stops on the tour included Micah Funk, Animal and Range Science Masters student, explaining research on the long-term vegetation transect; this project is under the direction of Dr. Jerry Holechek. The remaining parts of the day consisted of visits to the CDRRC headquarters and visiting the corrals, where Drs. Santiago Utsumi, Shelemia Nyamuryekung’e and Ph.D. student Andres Perea demonstrated their recently deployed virtual fencing collars. Participants could watch cattle moving and responding to a virtual boundary in realtime.

For more information, contact Dr. Holechek (holechek@nmsu.edu), Dr. Utsumi (sutsumi@nmsu.edu) or Dr. Nyamuryekung’e (shelemia@nmsu.edu).



Figure 1 (left): From left to right, CDRRC ranch manager Andrew Cox, and USDA-ARS scientists Drs. Matt McIntosh

ANIMAL AND RANGE SCIENCES



WEST SHEEP UNIT RELOCATES – Reflections on the past with a vision for the future

The West Sheep Unit (WSU) was founded 40+ years ago by Dr. Dennis Hallford. This unit has been instrumental to training graduate students in animal physiology research and has employed numerous undergraduate students. Hundreds of research publications resulted from work utilizing WSU animals. The WSU is managed by Dr. Jennifer Hernandez Gifford, a former student of Dr. Hallford, whose passion for research developed while working at the WSU.

Renovation of the campus farm, in conjunction with the [Agriculture Modernization GO Bond D](#), necessitated relocation of the WSU. It's been one year since we were moving our sheep from the WSU in its original location. These past 12 months were busy with design and build of the relocated facility. This week we are officially moved into the new WSU!! We are still WEST, and relocation has transformed a historical space on campus while enduring the legacy of the WSU.

For more information, contact Dr. Jennifer Hernandez Gifford via email: jjifford@nmsu.edu or follow the [@NMSUWestSheepUnit](#) Facebook page.



FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

New Mexico State University's Fashion Merchandising and Design program will host [the 2022 Aggie Fashion Camp](#) for high school students in July. The one-day fashion camp is an immersive experience where participants will learn about the fashion and textile industry, product development, social media influencing, entrepreneurialism, brand



building, sustainable design and more.

The camp – organized by NMSU faculty members Insook Ahn and Kelley Cleary Coffeen from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences – is open to high school students entering the 11th and 12th grades.

It will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, in Gerald Thomas Hall, 940 College Drive, on NMSU's Las Cruces campus. Registration is required by July 5. Seating is limited. To register, email kcoffeen@nmsu.edu or iahn@nmsu.edu.

Cost is \$15 to attend and includes lunch.

For more information click on the link below: [NMSU to host Aggie Fashion Camp for high school students | New Mexico State University – BE BOLD. Shape the Future.](#)



FISH, WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION ECOLOGY

In April, the [Department of Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Ecology](#) was excited to facilitate the [signing of an historic agreement](#) between NMSU, the University of Texas at San Antonio and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This agreement focuses on workforce diversity within the agency by advancing underrepresented students in natural resource fields.

At NMSU, many of the students expected to benefit from this program will come from FWCE. NMSU has an important role in training and educating students from diverse backgrounds in the natural resource sciences and connecting these students with career opportunities. Further, FWCE has long had strong ties to the USFWS. This agreement is a platform for NMSU to build a lasting partnership with the agency and to work with the USFWS to train and mentor students, preparing them for competitive professional careers.



For more information, contact FWCE's Dr. Martha Desmond (mdesmond@nmsu.edu) or Dr. Matthew Gompper (gompper@nmsu.edu).

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA – FFA

The New Mexico FFA State Officer team was elected by their peers at the 94th State FFA Convention May 31–June 2. In attendance were over 700 members, advisors and guests. State officer candidates take part in an extensive interview process with the State FFA Officer

Nominating Committee leading up to the election.

Throughout their year of service to the New Mexico FFA Association, the officers will interact with business and industry leaders, hundreds of FFA members and teachers, corporate sponsors, government and education officials, local FFA leaders, the general public, and more. The team will lead personal growth and leadership training conferences for FFA members throughout the state and help set policies that will guide the future of FFA and the next generation of leaders.

New Mexico FFA has 4,406 members as a part of 83 chapters across the state. For more information visit [New Mexico Agricultural Education & FFA Association – Home \(nmffa.org\)](http://nmffa.org)



HOTEL, RESTAURANT, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Courtyard Las Cruces at NMSU did it again – another milestone. This time, it is a bigger award.

Within 3 years of being open, we are excited to announce another milestone for Courtyard by Marriott Las Cruces at NMSU.

2021 Marriott Select Brands Awarded the Platinum Circle to Courtyard by Marriott Las Cruces at NMSU. This award is given to the top 5% of the brand globally in overall Guest Satisfaction Survey Score – Intent to Recommend.

2021 Marriott Select Brands award winner for Courtyard General Manager of the Year is our very own Amy Miller. Every year, Marriott Select Brands offer this highest award to only one GM who demonstrated achievement in operational and hospitality leadership excellence.

For more information contact [Jean Hertzman](mailto:jhertzma@nmsu.edu) via email: jhertzma@nmsu.edu. To view the article click on the link below: [Hotel on NMSU campus wins top Marriott awards | New Mexico State University – BE BOLD. Shape the Future.](#)

2021 MARRIOTT SELECT BRANDS AWARDS

THIS AWARD IS PRESENTED TO

Amy Miller

FOR

Courtyard General Manager of the Year

*Courtyard by Marriott
Las Cruces at NMSU*

FOR

Platinum Circle

Top 5% of the brand globally in Overall GSS Score – Intent to Recommend



School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (HRTM) Guest Chef Artist Dinner

HRTM held its Guest Chef Artist Dinner, sponsored by the NM Beef Council, on Thursday, April 21 at the NMSU Golf Course. At the dinner 130 guests were treated to an amazing five-course meal with special wine pairings. The event was a true collaborative effort.

The headline chef, Andres Padilla (HRTM '03), Culinary Director of Chicago's Cruz Blanca Hospitality, and John Hartley (HRTM) prepared the signature red chile shortrib entrée. Russell Hernandez (Salud! de Mesilla), Amber Casanova (Willow + Blaine), Pete Mitchell (HRTM), Clint Kifolo (Sodexo), Tom Drake and Cecilia Castro (DACC) contributed other menu items. Danny Guerra's team from EPCC made a spectacular ice carving and the reception appetizers paired with cocktails sponsored by Dry Point Distillers.

Liz Vega's meeting and event students organized the silent auction and with the great help of Sodexo and NMSU Conference Services supervised the meal service performed by HRTM Food and Service Fundamentals students. The event raised over \$20,000 for HRTM scholarships, travel, and activities.



For more information, click on the following link: <https://aces.nmsu.edu/100west/guest-chef-artist-dinner.html>

INNOVATIVE MEDIA RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

National Awards for Innovative Media

Several products developed by the Innovative Media, Research and Extension department were recognized last week with awards from the [National Association for Communication Excellence](#). Their work in creating diverse media was recognized with a Bronze for the game [Ratio Rumble](#) and a Silver for [their work communicating their processes for accessibility and representation](#) to other developers. They received two additional Bronze awards: one for a video series produced with [NMSU HRTM](#) department highlighting careers, and another for a [series of food safety animations](#) with University of Maine Extension. The team received two Gold awards (considered first place in the their categories) for a new process of using game development with Extension educators, resulting in the game; prototype [Unpeeled](#) and for the suite of [apps for young children](#) *Foods and Moves*. The app series uses research-based strategies to encourage proper movement and trying new foods, and also received the prestigious best-in-class award, the Outstanding Professional Skill Award.



The [suite of four apps](#) to encourage appropriate movement and willingness to try new foods was awarded the *Outstanding Professional Skill* award in interactive media at the recent ACE Conference. The apps are available online at [FoodsAndMoves.com](https://www.foodsandmoves.com)

LET'S MEET THE DEAN'S OFFICE TEAM



(Left to right) Yesenia Palma – Dominguez, Karlei Olivarez, Heber J. Lara, Pamila Miller

Yesenia Palma–Dominguez

ACES Dean Chief of Staff

Yesenia Palma has been in the Dean's office since 2019 and with NMSU for 18 years. Her education consists of an associate degree in business office technology and accounting from DACC, a bachelor's degree from NMSU in business administration with a focus in management and leadership and a master's from the University of Phoenix in business administration.

Pamila Miller

Administrative Assistant – Special/Executive

Pamila Miller began working at NMSU in August 2006 when the College was known as “College of Agricultural and Home Economics.” She will always be grateful to Elizabeth Crabb for hiring her and giving her the opportunity to work in the Deans office.

Karlei Olivarez

Administrative Assistant – Program Coordinator

Karlei was a student aid for 2 years and was given the opportunity to be a part of the ACES Team as an employee. She has recently graduated from NMSU this past Spring with her bachelor's in Psychology. Karlei enjoys working in the College of ACES and is grateful for the opportunity to continue in the ACES Dean's Office.

Heber J. Lara

Program Specialist

Heber obtained his bachelor's degree in biology from NMSU in 2019 and started working in the Dean's Office in 2021. He is thankful for the help and support that he has received from everyone in the College of ACES in the short period he has been employed here.

COLLEGE OF ACES 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

This report showcases the many achievements and the impacts accomplished throughout the College of ACES and its main areas and programs during 2021.

To view the full annual report click on the link below:

[2021-aces-annual-report_r.pdf \(nmsu.edu\)](#)





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[View & Download](#)

To view the Summer 2022 Newsletter from the [Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences](#),
click on the link below:
[Summer 2022 Newsletter \(lucidpress.com\)](#)

OPEN POSITIONS

For available vacant positions in the College of ACES, please visit,
[New Mexico State University Applicant Portal | Home \(nmsu.edu\)](#)

The College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences is an engine for economic and community development in New Mexico, improving the lives of New Mexicans through academic, research, and Extension programs.



**College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences**
New Mexico State University

