

Keeping up with the College

Dean's Message



The summer temperatures are still scorching here, but the work in ACES has not stopped. Just last week we had the convention of 4-Hers in town, specifically in the College of ACES. They did a lot of incredible activities that culminated with the awards ceremony. This is a vibrant time when we get the chance to see 4-H youth and volunteers participate in activities and to see the role of the College and of NMSU and especially the role of Extension educators and volunteers working with youth. 4-H is an outstanding organization, and we are very proud of it

and our role with the 4-Hrs.

4-H plays such an important role in our lives, especially with regards to education in agriculture. This brings our attention to the critical times that we are living in, especially in people understanding the role of agriculture in our lives. In this country, only about 1.5-1.8% of the population participates in agriculture. Sometimes they are not fully valued, given how important agriculture is. We saw the impact in the food chain during the pandemic and how hard it was to recover from these times. The nature of our food system is such that the producer is far away from the consumer. The College has a strong commitment to *agricultural literacy*, this is part of what we do and what we will continue to do in the College. In this issue we are bring out some of the activities that are specific to the Department of Ag Education and Extension (AXED). We think that is extremely important to keep Ag literacy in the forefront for all of us and our efforts need to double or more to let everyone know what the role is and how we impact their lives at least three times a day. Our AXED department plays an important role in the preparation of students to work as Ag teachers but also in the research of the different components of agricultural communication, which is a new area that we are developing.

As a border town, Las Cruces, and as a border state, New Mexico, we play an important role in international agriculture, especially when Las Cruces is only 40 minutes away from the busiest animal crossing in the world. There are a lot of important facts that we need to have present, and we need to continue working on as our programs develop and we continue working with youth and all the consumers in the state. We need to make sure that consumers value and understand the contribution of agriculture.

Please enjoy the newsletter.
Thank you

Rolando A Flores Galarza
Dean & Chief Administrative Officer



WATER FOR AGRICULTURE

In New Mexico, climate water stress challenges efforts to achieve food, energy, and water security. Prior to work by NMSU visiting scholar Safa Baccour, none had described an approach to guide policies for adapting to climate water stresses to inform water planning efforts. Ms. Baccour, who visited NMSU from Spain in fall 2021, conducted an economic analysis for several urban and agricultural uses located throughout Spain's Ebro Basin, which supports a population of more than 3.2 million. She developed an economic optimization analysis to discover land and water use patterns that sustain farm and urban income under various levels of climate-water stress, something with important applications for New Mexico. Her results found that water policies under climate water stress that showed cost saving water use patterns, reallocating water from lower valued uses to higher valued uses while protecting farm incomes.

Contact Information:

Her paper is titled "[Climate Adaptation Guidance: New Roles for Hydroeconomic Analysis](#)," published in August 2022 in the *Science of the Total Environment*. Authors are Safa Baccour, Frank A. Ward, and Jose Albiac. A summary abstract of her work can be found at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969722026146>.

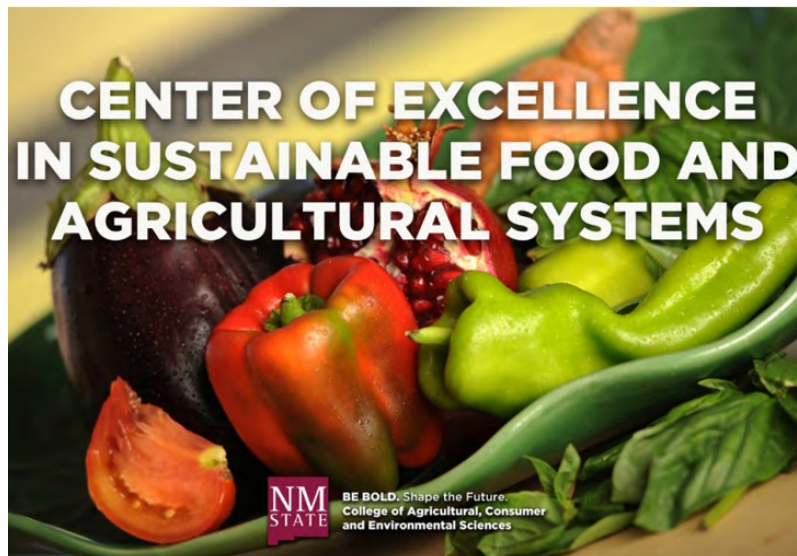
Please contact Frank Ward at fward@nmsu.edu for more information.

Exploring New Technologies to Conserve Water

[The Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems](#), one of four Centers of Excellence in the State, was created in 2019 by the Governor and Legislature. The Center, working with the Cooperative Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Station, uses a multidisciplinary approach coordinating faculty from across the University to work on pressing issues related to New Mexico agriculture, emphasizing sustainable value-added production.

A recent project of [the Center of Excellence for Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems](#) is associated with controlled environment agriculture. The project is centered around a container farm housed on the NMSU Grants campus, funded by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. Researchers from the College, along with colleagues in the College of Engineering and the Grants campus, are working with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) on a nationwide research project, exploring opportunities to grow leafy greens using LED lights. While there are many issues to be resolved associated with container farming, the concept offers many potential benefits, including year-round production, reduced carbon emissions as the farms can be closer to customers, and water savings. Relative to water savings, a leading manufacturer of container farms indicates that one container can grow 1,000 heads of lettuce per week (equivalent to two acres of land) using five gallons of water per day.

Please contact Dr. Jay Lillywhite at lillywhi@nmsu.edu or Dr. Efren Delgado at edelgad@nmsu.edu for more information.



AGRICULTURAL LITERACY

The National Agricultural Literacy Outcomes (NALO) provide a foundational guideline for measuring agricultural literacy, and the AAAE National Research Agenda calls for innovative approaches in research and scholarship to improve the public understanding of agriculture. As a result, NMSU's Department of Agricultural and Extension Education is strategically addressing agricultural literacy through multiple avenues of research, teaching, and Extension/outreach efforts. First, AXED faculty and graduate students have several active research projects investigating agricultural literacy levels in NMSU stakeholders, including a partnership with "Hatch Project W3006: Multistate Agricultural Literacy Research" designed to investigate agricultural literacy levels of Extension professionals and volunteers from Utah, Kansas, and New Mexico. Another AXED graduate student is also leading a study investigating agricultural literacy in NMSU and NMSU ACES students.

Second, through the creation and redesign of several agricultural communication courses, NMSU AXED is seeking to improve agricultural literacy through coursework. One course—"ACOM 3160V—Communicating Agriculture and Science to the Public"—is specifically designed to help students communicate about the five key NALO areas and will be offered for the first time in Fall 2022.

Finally, AXED is partnering with NM Farm and Livestock Bureau, NM Ag in the Classroom, and NMSU Cooperative Extension Service for an AgXplorer project designed to introduce agricultural literacy standards to youth and Elementary students. AgXplorer started in Spring 2022 and is designed to support educational efforts to raise awareness of food, fiber, and natural resource systems to students at an early age.

For more information contact Dr. Steven Fraze at sfraz@nmsu.edu



4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Students in grades 8–12 are invited to attend ACES Camp, Monday, August 22, from 8am – 3:30pm, hosted by the New Mexico 4-H Youth Development Aggie Next Step program. During this free experiential camp, students will participate in hands-on activities and explore career opportunities through NMSU's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES).

ACES Camp is the first of three upcoming youth camps focusing on career exploration. The first camp

will highlight departments in the College of ACES. Upcoming camps will focus on departments throughout NMSU's main campus and the Dona Ana Community College. Participants will receive a t-shirt and lunch will be provided. Space is limited.

For registration contact the State 4-H Department at state4h@nmsu.edu or by calling (575) 646-3026.

NMSU College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
4-H and Youth Development
AGGIE NEXT STEP



Presents
ACES
CAMP

Monday, August 22, 2022, 8:00am – 3:30pm

8th – 12th grade students are invited to experience a day of FREE* hands-on activities learning about career opportunities available through NMSU's College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES)!

Animal and Range Sciences **Family and Consumer Sciences**
Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management **Innovative Media**
Agriculture Business and Economics **Plant and Environmental Sciences**

***T-shirt & lunch included • Space is limited**
To Register contact Newt McCarty – jnewton3@nmsu.edu

 If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate, please contact 4-H and Youth Development Department in advance at (575) 646-3026 or state4h@nmsu.edu. New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating.

ACADEMICS



Brandon Larrañaga, a New Mexico State University senior pursuing a double major in agriculture communications and journalism and media studies, is one of only two students selected to represent the State of New Mexico at the Western Governors' Leadership Institute this summer.

Shannon Norris-Parish, assistant professor of agricultural and extension education, nominated Larrañaga for the program. "Brandon is an incredible student who is passionate about serving and improving our local communities," Norris-Parish said. "As an agricultural communications major, he understands the role clear and concise messaging plays in community development. I am confident he will bring these leadership skills back to New Mexico State University upon serving as a New Mexico delegate to the Western Governors' Leadership Institute."

The leadership institute runs from July 24 through July 28. It begins with a forum of speakers including governors, business leaders and presidents of various organizations. The delegates will also attend the Western Governors' Association annual meeting, where the cohort can observe the discourse between governors of different states and different parties engaging on significant issues.

The full article can be seen at: [NMSU student selected for Western Governors' Leadership Institute | New Mexico State University – BE BOLD. Shape the Future.](#)

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

The Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center (ASC) hosted a field tour and educational program for the Western Agricultural Economics Association on June 28, 2022. Several of the ongoing research projects being conducted at the ASC were highlighted, including undercover tomatoes, hemp, jujube, and wine and table grapes. Presenters were: Marisa Thompson, Shengrui Yao, Hanah Rhey, Maryel Lopez, and Mark Marsalis.

The Learning Garden was a particular highlight of the tour, with mulching research generating much interest and questions. The group of 30 was composed of primarily agricultural economists and Extension Specialists who work closely with farmers and ranchers in the Western and Midwestern US. Several NMSU faculty participated in the annual meeting held in Santa Fe.

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



AGRICULTURE EXTENSION EDUCATION (AXED)



Dr. Frank Hodnett retires

Dr. Frank Hodnett received Professor Emeritus status after retiring from New Mexico State University on July 1. Dr. Hodnett served 34 years through the Cooperative Extension Service and the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education. Dr. Hodnett started his career as the 4-H Agriculture Agent with the Roosevelt County Cooperative Extension Service in the summer of 1988. In 1997, he served as County Program Director for

Roosevelt County until 1999 when he took an educational leave to return to the NMSU campus to commence his Ph.D. program. When he completed his Ph.D.

In 2003, he was promoted as a Youth Development Specialist. From 2004–2012, he moved to Department Head of 4-H Youth Development, and from 2013–2017, he served as the Department Head of Agricultural and Extension Education. Dr. Hodnett's career has always been centered on students and youth development, and we wish him well on his next adventure.

For more information Contact Dr. Shannon Norris-Parish at norriss@nmsu.edu

ANIMAL AND RANGE SCIENCES

The annual American Society of Animal Science meeting was held June 26 to 30, 2022 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Department of Animal and Range Sciences had 18 faculty and students attend the

meeting. Graduate students Victor Flores, Emily Melchior-Tiffany, Megan Wasson, and Kenzie Smythman and undergraduate student Cael Alderete presented research posters.

Graduate students Emily Melchior-Tiffany and Colin Tobin were honored as Young Scholars and each gave a 30-minute invited talk highlighting their research accomplishments during their PhD programs. Dr. Derek Bailey received the Animal Management Award.



Left to right (Emily Melchior-Tiffany - Young Scholar, Dr. Derek Baily - Animal Management Award, Dr. Colin Tobin - Young Scholar)



Department of Animal and Range Sciences faculty and staff in attendance at the American Society of Animal Science Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

FISH, WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION ECOLOGY (FWCE)



New Mexico regularly sustains large fires, and the fires of 2022 continue to highlight the need for education and research on causes and consequences of fire around the state. The Black Fire and McBride Fire in southern New Mexico, and the Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon Fire in northern New Mexico have had dramatic impacts on people and wildlife across the state. FWCE faculty have long understood the importance of fire for the state's wildlife. Current projects related to wildfires include attempting to understand how fires mediate the distribution of large mammals, how fire changes the landscape and in turn the likelihood of wildlife contracting parasites, how fire and smoke interact with drought to influence bird migrations, how fires impact endangered species, and how the ash runoff that follows fires influences fish survival and aquatic habitat quality. Numerous graduate and undergraduate students work across the state on these issues.

Currently FWCE is helping NM Department of Game and Fish house a population of genetically pure Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout from Rito Morphy (Mora County). Approximately 200 fish were rescued shortly after the Hermits Peak & Calf Canyon Fire to protect against the likelihood of ash and flooding making the stream uninhabitable. Ultimately the fish will be translocated to their new home in



Middle Ponil Creek on the Valle Vidal.

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

FWCE students Callie Hauser and Colton Padilla are working in Valles Caldera to understand how the fires that change forest habitats also mediate the disease ecology of wildlife.

SCHOOL OF HOTEL, RESTAURANT, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT (HRTM)

Summer Studies in Florence

The School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management's Annual Summer Studies in Florence returned to Florence University of the Arts in Italy in May and June. Dr. Keith Mandabach led nine students on the tour that included visits to a wide variety of gastronomic, artistic, architectural and cultural experiences.

Two students attended a bonus class starting in Rome and traveling throughout Italy. All students took academic classes ranging from Food and Wine Pairing, Farm to Table Cooking, Gardens of Tuscany, to Photography and Consumer Behavior in Fashion. Dr. Mandabach served as a guide for tours that included a wide range of palaces, gardens, cathedrals and galleries of Renaissance art highlighted by Michelangelo's David, Botticelli's Birth of Venus, as well as DaVinci's Madonna with Child. The group also traveled to the cities of Sienna and Pisa. They dined in cafes throughout the trip. Their studies closed with an Italian Cooking class where they created homemade ravioli, exquisite chicken and beef cacciatore and chocolate cake.



Click on the following link to learn more <https://aces.nmsu.edu/academics/shrtm/florence-study-abroad.html>

ICAN-IDEAS FOR COOKING AND NUTRITION

Bernalillo County residents learn their food's

path to the plate



This summer, Bernalillo County residents can learn about agriculture and nutrition by cooking right on the farm. [Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition](#) (ICAN) and partners, [The Sprouting Kitchen](#), and [Chispas Farm](#) are hosting [Farm Fresh Cooking Classes](#) from June to September. Head farmer Casey Holland, welcomes participants with a tour of the urban farm that grows heirloom vegetables in Albuquerque's South Valley. After the tour, The Sprouting Kitchen owner, Fallon Bader, M.S., RDN, gives a presentation of knife skills and [MyPlate](#).

Participants learn to prepare produce that's not common in a grocery store like black radishes and massive heads of Napa cabbage. Not only did the participants increase health knowledge and share a meal, but also developed friendships. After class, participants could also purchase produce, and SNAP recipients can use their EBT card and the [Double Up Food Bucks](#) program.



INNOVATIVE MEDIA RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

The department hosted four week-long sessions with youth on digital media, game creation, critical review and careers in media and design this summer. Youth in middle and high school were encouraged to review existing games with a critical lens, explore the game design process, and pitch a game designed to solve a problem they care about. They presented their pitches to family and professional developers. All of the participating youth found the programs enjoyable (90% found it extremely good), and their parents also reported the skills gained by their children as extremely (81%) or moderately/very (19%) useful. Some family members specifically noted the emphasis on collaboration and on developing presentation skills. This year brought our first international cohort, with six students traveling from Cuauhtémoc, Mexico to participate.

For more information contact Dr. Barbara Chamberlin via email at bchamber@nmsu.edu



One of the Games Lab Youth Consultant explores VR as part of her work reviewing media and games.

LET'S MEET THE ACES HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) TEAM



2022 ACES HR TEAM (Bottom row) – left to right – Mary Hernandez, Leeza Marquez (Top row) – left to right – Debbie Pepion, Yesenia Palma-Dominguez

Debbie Pepion
HR Specialist I,

Debbie has been with the university for 20 years – 16 with ACES HR office. She is grateful to have always worked with a great team even when she found her car saran wrapped in the parking lot courtesy of Brooke Boren. It has truly been a pleasure working in this college.

Leeza Marquez
HR Rep. – Unit Coordinator

Leeza has been working with ACES HR for one year but has been with NMSU since 2019. Leeza received her Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Managerial Leadership and Human Resources in 2017 and received her MBA from NMSU in 2020. She is grateful for the

opportunity that ACES has given her these last 3 years.

Mary Hernandez

HR Rep. – Unit Coordinator

Mary began working for NMSU in June of 2004 in the office of Human Resource and transferred to the College of Choice, ACES, in August 2006 as HR Rep Unit, retired in 2015 and returned as temp from August 2016 to August 2018 and rehired as regular returning retiree June 2021 as HR Rep Unit Coord. Truly the College of Choice.

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.

Nadine Calderon

Student Assistant

Nadine Calderon is a student assistant that has been working with ACES HR since 2021. She is working towards her Bachelors in Social Work. Nadine is grateful for the opportunities that ACES has given her as a student and will continue to appreciate her time here.

2022 ACES AWARDS

The ACES Awards Selection Committee voted on the 2022 faculty and staff nominations that were submitted for our distinguished awards. The award winners are listed below. Please join us in congratulating each one of these award winners for their dedication to NMSU–ACES



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July 7, 2022

TO: College of ACES
FROM: Rolando A. Flores Galarza
SUBJECT: 2022 ACES Awards

The ACES Awards Selection Committee voted on the 2022 faculty and staff nominations that were submitted for our distinguished awards. The award winners are listed below. Please join me in congratulating each one of these award winners for their dedication to NMSU-ACES.

**Charles Tharp Farms Distinguished
Service Award**
John Townsend

**Fabiola Cabeza de Baca Diversity in
Extension Award**
Lourdes Olivas

**Distinguished Cooperative Extension Agent
Award**
Cassandra Vanderpool

**Malone Farms Distinguished Off Campus
Staff Award**
Edward L. Morris

**Distinguished County Extension Agent
Award**
Boe Lopez

**Mobley Family Endowed Distinguished
Research Award**
Jennifer H. Gifford

**Distinguished Professional Staff Award-On
Campus**
Carlos Herrera

Team Award
Behavioral Health and Wellness

**Distinguished Professional Staff Award-Off
Campus**
Shelly Morris Spears

Awardees selected by the Departments:
Outstanding 4-H Agent Award
Wayne Shockey

Distinguished Teaching Award
Early Mid-Career- Brian Schutte
Advanced Career- Sergio Soto-Navarro

HRTM Industry Leadership Award
Edward Linderman

Fabián García Founders' Award
Jay Lillywhite

Outstanding Global Work Award
John W. Campbell

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

INDIAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (IRD)

To view the Summer 2022 Newsletter from [Indian Resources Development](#) click on the link below: [Summer 2022 IRD Newsletter \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Summer 2022

[View this email in your browser](#)



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.
**College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences**
Indian Resources Development

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 \(nmsu.edu\)](#)





ACES Magazine Spring 2022 – Issue
7

[View & Download](#)

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)

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

[Summer 2022 Newsletter \(lucidpress.com\)](https://www.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

