



Keeping up with the College

Dean's Message

“Concerns with the direction where the College is heading.”

The ACES College is heading forward based on its strategic plan and LEADS 2025. The ACES College developed its Strategic Plan through a process of consensus that involved the faculty, staff, and students. The process was put on hold while the NMSU strategic plan, LEADS 2025, was structured and approved. Once LEADS 2025 was in place the ACES strategic plan process continued and feedback was requested from the New Mexico agriculture stakeholders, minimum recommendations were received and were considered in the plan by the ACES committee. The [ACES College Strategic Plan](#) is around the four [Pillars for economic and community development](#) that sets our course and are aligned with the three missions of the land grant college: teaching, research and extension. Strategic plans are not set in stone and are to be continuously reviewed; units and departments will continue updating their strategic plans.



Dean & Chief
Administrative Officer
Dean Rolando A. Flores
Galarza

ACES Newsletter

ACADEMICS

ACES Ambassadors recently attended California’s State FFA Conference in Sacramento to recruit future Aggies. During the two-day career expo, we were able to visit with hundreds of students about our campus, degree opportunities, and the WUE tuition discount. It was a great opportunity to visit with many career-oriented students about the great opportunities offered here at NMSU, and we hope to continue contact with many of them!

Please join us for FFA Fest & BBQ on April 8 from 11:30 am–1:30 pm in between Gerald Thomas and Skeen Hall as we welcome over 1000 New Mexico FFA students to the NMSU campus.



Open House

April 9, 9:00am–12:00pm at the Gerald Thomas Hall.

Free Admission | Free Parking

Fun for the Whole Family!

[NMSU: About ACES](#) | [Open House](#)

ANIMAL & RANGE SCIENCE



NMSU Range Club. Every year the NMSU Range Club is able to travel to the National Society for Range Management Annual Meeting.

This year's meeting was held locally in Albuquerque. Students from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico come together to compete in teams and as individuals for bragging rights of the best in their field. Competition categories range from plant identification, and public

speaking, to a comprehensive Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME). Individually, Daniel Burton placed 11th overall in the URME putting him in the top 10% of all students. As this was the first time attending, and competing, for many of our students, they still collectively placed 10th out of 18 very competitive schools. Competitions are only part of the role of the Range Club at the conference, and particularly so because of the conference being on New Mexico's home turf, students also had the opportunity to serve by welcoming guests at check-in, moderating and assisting speakers, and engaging those in attendance through their own booth. In the field of rangeland management, it is critical to build a collaborative network and start conversations about potential job opportunities. The Range Club took this to heart representing NMSU well and also gained experience that will forever benefit them and their communities.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Navajo Agriculture and Natural Resources Sustainability Project. Project Director: Michael Patrick, Project Field Coordinator: Jesse Jim – New Mexico State University

Situation: This project helped to increase the profitability and sustainability of 242 Navajo ranchers by reducing their production, marketing, financial, legal, and human risks through a series of workshops, webinars, "how to" videos, and technical assistance.

Impacts: The Navajo people value their livestock immensely and agriculture has always been a way of life for generations.



The majority of Navajo producers supplement their incomes with sales from their livestock and some solely depend on these sales.

This project provided ranchers with knowledge of livestock market targets including livestock quality related to vaccination records, preconditioning livestock, and low input costs to increase profit margins. Even though Covid presented multiple challenges, it is estimated that Navajo ranchers' profitability increased by 5–10% through improved ranch management plans.

FAMILY & CONSUMER

SCIENCES

2022 Sustainable Met Gala Fashion Show. Las Cruces, New Mexico on Thursday, April 7, at 6:00 pm, New Mexico State University's Fashion Merchandising and Design students and faculty will host the Sustainable Met-Gala, a fashion show supporting sustainability in fashion. The fashion show will feature upcycled and repurposed garments made from recycled materials.

This exciting event will bring awareness to the environment and educate our community about sustainable opportunities. Entry to the Sustainable Fashion show will be free for the public. The show will be held in NMSU Aggie Lounge at Corbett Center.

Corbett Center Student Union,
International Mall,
Las Cruces NM, 88003



Salazar, B. (2022). *Briana Salazar modeling her own fashion design.* Photograph, Las Cruces

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA



¿Hablas Español? Spanish Creed Speakers Take Center Stage.

In its first year, the New Mexico FFA Spanish Creed Speaking Contest was a hit, with participants saying they are thankful for an event that allows them to use their native language. Reciting the FFA Creed can be a powerful and emotional experience for FFA members. It outlines the organization's belief in agriculture and core values of citizenship and patriotism.

Hagerman FFA advisor Codi Montes-Dennis says. "I noticed a lot of our Hispanic kids weren't taking full advantage of being in FFA. They love agriculture, but they don't always see a place for them in the organization because they don't always see other kids like them."

"With the strong support from New Mexico FFA and our district staff, our FFA chapter purchased a belt buckle for the grand champion, bought banners, and hosted the event at Hagerman High School," Montes-Dennis says. "We had a phenomenal response, and I'd love to see it grow."

Learn more about the FFA Creed Speaking event at [FFA.org/Participate/LDEs/Creed-Speaking](https://www.ffa.org/Participate/LDEs/Creed-Speaking).

HORTICULTURE

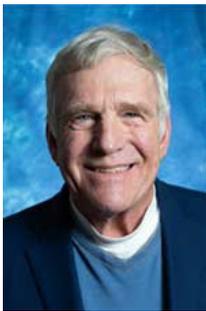
Horticulture Forum Undergraduate Students Engage in Co-curricular Activity. A group of 10 Horticulture Forum Club members visited Tucson, Arizona at the beginning of Spring Break, March 5-8th. This co-curricular event was packed with fun and activities, including visits to Tucson Botanical Garden, Tohono Chul Garden, Biosphere 2, Agua Caliente Park, a hike in Saguaro

National Park East and two nurseries.

The trip was funded from club plant sales and also supported by the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences. Members on the trip included club President Jade Stott, Treasurer Giovanni Cisneros, Historian Tyra Trumble, and members Elora Roberts, Kathryn Overman, Mia Herrera, Carolina Camacho, Joaquin Munoz, Christopher Gomez and Mireya Ferran and were chaperoned by co-advisor Rachel Giannini.



SCHOOL OF HOTEL, RESTAURANT & TOURISM MANAGEMENT



New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference.

Dr. Keith Mandabach attended the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention (NMHEAR) Conference on February 24th and 25th at the Albuquerque Marriott. He presented a poster titled “Hospitality and Tourism Assessment of Student Mastery of Experiential Learning”. It focused on the assessment of the wide variety of experiential learning that is part of the HRTM educational process, including activities beyond internships and foodservice/culinary classes such as service learning, simulations, work experience, wine education, and outreach programs. It started a general dialogue on the assessment of experiential learning. He attended sessions about the instructor’s role in fostering a more inclusive classroom learning environment, addressing inclusion by reflecting on exclusion, and implications of active and online learning on equity and access in higher education. He also promoted HRTM’s Essentials of Customer Service and Food and Beverage non-credit certificate programs that are part of the NM Department of Workforce Solutions’ COVID recovery efforts.

IDEAS FOR COOKING AND NUTRITION

To aid beginning gardeners in New Mexico, New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service’s Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition (ICAN) is offering a free program, Seed to Supper Beginning Vegetable Gardener Series. The six-week course is designed to teach beginning vegetable gardeners how to successfully grow their foods from planning to harvest.

The six-week course covers a new topic each week to educate gardeners on growing their own food in New Mexico’s climate. Topics include planning, soil, planting, garden care, and harvest.

“Gardening can be challenging in New Mexico,” said Sally Cassady, ICAN Food Systems Specialist. “This Seed to Supper series will help beginning gardeners learn skills and tips for improving their gardening success in Valencia County.”



For more information, contact Debbie Christensen at 505-865-4070 or debmmichel@q.com.

INDIAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

In collaboration with Flower Hill Institute, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, NMSU CES–Pueblo Extension, Pueblo of Jemez Natural Resources Department, Santa Ana Pueblo, and Dancing Butterfly Naturals, Indian Resources Development offered the fifth session of six of the Extended Season Production Workshop Series. The six-session series included the basics of greenhouses and hoop houses, planning and design, construction, management and maintenance, community panels, and hands-on demonstrations. The last session will be in person, and it will include a presentation about the challenges and consideration of building a greenhouse, a nature walk to identify medicinal plants, food demonstrations, and a conversation about possible topics for future workshops.

Information about workshops is posted on the [IRD Facebook page](#).



VIRTUAL INSECT LAB

Pin, Point and Spread Insects in the online Virtual Insect Lab. 4-H members and students can explore the importance of insect collections with a new online *Virtual Insect Lab*. The beautiful online lab gives users a chance to pin beetles, spread and pin a butterfly, and ‘point’ an ant, while also learning about the scientific value of collections. Entomology is often included in middle grades, but educators may have enough experience to guide learners in creating insect collections. This virtual lab offers step-by-step instructions and includes videos on how to collect and prepare insects.

Dr. Scott Bundy, professor in ACES Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science Department, received funding from the USDA NIFA (award number 2018-38414-28610) for the project. Pilot study participants enjoyed the lab and felt it increased their interest in insects.

Dr. Don Edgar and Dr. Shannon Norris in the ACES Agricultural and Extension and Education department are conducting evaluations in classrooms to measure additional impacts.

<https://insectcollectionlab.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.



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