

R. Matthew Gonzales



Name: R. Matthew Gonzales

Hometown: Dallas, TX

School: New Mexico State University

Major: Environmental Science

Exp. Graduation Date: December 2018

Email: Gonzar10@NMSU.edu

About Yourself:

I am a first-generation student and began my academic career at one of the nation's smallest community colleges, ENMU-Ruidoso. After a few short years at NMSU I have gone from city slicker to a naturalist. I now enjoy gardening and a wide variety of outdoor activities. I am an active member of the Environmental Science Student Organization which participates in community cleanups and habitat restoration projects along the Rio Grande.

Skills:

While working towards my degree I have developed skills relevant to laboratory and field work with an emphasis on safety. Before beginning my academic career, I gained management experience in retail, and the food service industry. My leadership skills have allowed me to become an effective PTK Honor Society Chapter President (2014) and a Vice President for the NMSU Environmental Science Student Organization (2017).

Accomplishments/ Clubs/ other:

- Academic Scholarship while attending NMSU (Summer 2014 – Spring 2017)
- Vice President of the Environmental Science Student Organization at NMSU Spring 2017
- Undergraduate Student Speaker at the Eastern New Mexico University – Ruidoso Graduation Ceremony Spring 2014
- Recipient of the All-USA Academic Team (1 of 20 Nationwide competition)
- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Scholarship Awarded in Washington DC and presented in USA Today (04/08/2014)
- Recipient of the All-New Mexico Academic Team (Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Scholarship awarded by NM State Representatives in Santa Fe)
- Recipient of the Coca-Cola New Century Scholarship President of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society, ENMU Chapter 2013-2014
- Member of the ENMU Wildlife Society 2013-2014

Career Experiences:

Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) NIH Grant # GM07667-38 Undergraduate Research Assistant.

NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU): Basic and Environmental Soil Science Training (BESST) NSF Grant # 1358938, Soil Erosion Control Research.

US. Department of Agriculture Smokey Bear Ranger District, Volunteer Field Technician (raptor and salamander surveys)

Bosque Wildlife and Habitat, Undergraduate Student Research Assistant. (small mammal trapping)

Plans after Graduation:

I am seeking a job with the USDA where I can expand on my years of management experience and apply my education in environmental sciences. Furthermore, I am determined to expand on my undergraduate research experiences so that I may be a competitive candidate for graduate programs.