

Kudos to New Mexico State University-Grants (NMSU-Grants), one of our alliance partners and to New Mexico AMP Institution Coordinator (IC) at NMSU-Grants, Marlene-Chavez Toivanen! Washington Monthly magazine recently ranked NMSU-Grants among the Top 30 Community Colleges in the Third Annual College Rankings, based on five composite benchmarks that gauge success: active and collaborative learning, student effort, academic challenge, student-faculty interaction, and support for learners. Contributing to this success, Marlene Chavez-Toivanen was recently recognized as a E. (Kika) de la Garza Fellow in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program. This program offers faculty and staff from Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) the opportunity to work collaboratively with USDA to gain insight and understanding of the federal government by addressing challenges faced in the development of a well prepared Hispanic workforce. Congratulations, NMSU-Grants and Marlene!

A mentor in the Undergraduate Research Assistantship (URA) program and the Bridge to the Doctorate program, Dr. Elba Serrano, presented a nanoscience lecture at NMSU-Alamogordo. Dr. Serrano, an NMSU biology professor who specializes in cell and molecular neuroscience, presented a lunchtime lecture entitled "Nanoscience: From Nanobots to BioChips" on September 20 at the NMSU-Alamogordo Townsend Library Lunchtime Lectures, presented by Community Education at the NMSU-Alamogordo campus.

Ricardo Jacquez, Director of New Mexico AMP, took the Bridge to the Doctorate (BD) Cohort IV students to the 2007 Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) in Washington, D.C. August 13-17. In addition to attending various professional development workshops, Dr. Jacquez and the students visited legislative offices and spent time with staff members. The students shared their research projects and discussed the BD program with these dignitaries. The conference experience benefited these students by helping them grow and develop professionally; by providing them the opportunity to network with students and faculty; and by exposing them to role models in science, technology, mathematics, and engineering fields in the culture of research in academia.

Dr. Ken White, Academic Department Head of Civil and Geological Engineering (CAGE) at NMSU, the department in which New Mexico AMP is housed, participated as an expert consultant in a preliminary inspection of the Minneapolis bridge that crashed into the Mississippi River on Wednesday Aug. 1,

killing at least five people. Importantly, NMSU has conducted the nation's only Bridge Inspection Training Program for more than 35 years.

Kudos also go out to two of our former New Mexico AMP students who have been highly recognized by the professional community. Danielle Miranda, an NMSU-Alamogordo transfer student who participated both in the Summer Community College Opportunity for Research Experience (SCCORE) program and the Undergraduate Research Assistantship (URA), has been awarded the Memorial Medical Center Scholarship for 2007-2008. Danielle also participated as an intern at the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington in summer of 2006. Another former URA who received the M.S. degree in civil engineering as a Bridge to the Doctorate participant and is now pursuing his Ph.D at NMSU was also honored recently. Jimmy Moreno was named recipient of the 2007-2008 Student Water Research Grant Program by the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute. His research project is entitled, "Estimating Evaporation from Elephant Butte Reservoir with the Monin Obukhov Similarity Theory Using Simple Instrumentation." Congratulations, Danielle and Jimmy-we are very proud of your accomplishments!!