

New Mexico State University has announced the appointment of its interim president, **Dr. Waded Cruzado**, who has served as Provost and currently serves as the Principal Investigator (PI) of the New Mexico AMP program. As Interim President, Dr. Cruzado will continue to build on the school's fine achievements and will work very hard to effectively administer outreach efforts. We are proud to have Dr. Cruzado serving New Mexico AMP and the university with her excellent leadership!

We have added a new feature to our Currents newsletter! Each issue, we will highlight one of our New Mexico AMP alliance partner Institutional Coordinators (ICs). In this issue, **Phyllis Baca** from Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) will be featured. Phyllis is the Chair of the Department of Computer and Information Technologies and has served as the New Mexico AMP IC at SFCC for three years. She earned a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from the University of New Mexico (UNM). In her role as IC, Phyllis has been of our most dedicated and active coordinators, serving as instructor for the SCCORE program and faithfully recruiting and coordinating AMP activities at SFCC. In addition, Phyllis teaches STEM 111, a dual-enrollment course that incorporates New Mexico AMP-authored curriculum. Phyllis serves on several committees, including the New Mexico Higher Education Department's Engineering Task Force. Before her appointment at SFCC, Phyllis was a partner in an engineering consulting business and worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Phyllis loves to jog, swim, and play tennis, but emphasizes that her passion in life is to guide underrepresented minorities, especially Hispanics and women, into STEM disciplines. Thank you, Phyllis, for your dedication and hard work!

We are excited to announce that **Cohort 6 of the Bridge to the Doctorate Program** will be supported over the next two years at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque, NM. The Project Coordinator for the program is Dr. Laura Crossey, Professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Science. The Bridge to the Doctorate program is directed to LSAMP students who have completed the B.S degree in a targeted STEM discipline and have identified and committed to the Ph.D. as their educational goal. The Bridge to the Doctorate supports these students through the first two years of graduate study. Students are then assisted to identify and apply to a Ph.D. program. For more information, please contact Dr. Crossey at (505) 277-5349 or lcrossey@unm.edu.

New Mexico-Grants Community College (New Mexico Grants CC) New Mexico AMP participant, **Stephen Russell**, a computer technology major, was honored as an Outstanding Graduate during its commencement on May 9, 2008 in Grants, NM for his outstanding scholarship, leadership, and participation in academic and community activities. Kudos go to Stephen!!

Danielle Miranda, New Mexico AMP biology major, who attended NMSU-Alamogordo before transferring to NMSU, co-authored her first article, "ATG-anchored AFLP (ATG-AFLP) Analysis in Cotton" in *Plant Cell Reports Journal*. Danielle is presently completing an internship at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington for the second time. We are proud of this accomplishment, Danielle!

Bridge to the Doctorate Cohort 5 students, New Mexico AMP Co-Director **Rudi Schoenmackers**, and Director **Ricardo Jacquez** attended the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) in Washington, DC from June 17-19, 2008. At the JAM, the cohort heard various dignitaries speak at the primary meetings, and they met with U.S. Senator Pete Dominici and U.S. Representative Tom Udall, both from New Mexico. The students listened to former Bridge students speak about their own movement into the Ph.D. and the professions or professoriate and provide guidance and tips on professional development. The focus of this year's meeting was to encourage the Bridge to the Doctorate students' involvement in international activity projects.