

New Mexico AMP CURRENTS
April-May 2009

Eleven (11) **Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute** engineering students graduated in May 2009 and will transfer to four-year engineering or engineering technology programs in the fall of 2009. Three of the students will transfer to New Mexico State University (NMSU), including Jameson Castillo (IT), Tierney Yazzie (ET) and Norton Martza (ME). Seven students will transfer to the University of New Mexico (UNM), including Alicia Montoya (ECE), Yvonne Benton (ECE), Ray Delgarito (CE), Bo Delgarito (CS), Dylan Maho, Crystal White (CE), Michael Wabaunsee. Mystelle White (Bio-E) will transfer to Fort Lewis College in Colorado. Four of the engineering and engineering technology students are going to receive \$1,000 New Mexico AMP Transfer Scholarships. Alicia Montoya received a \$2,500 scholarship from the New Mexico Space Grant (NASA EPSCoR) for the Fall 2009 semester at UNM. As part of the requirements for this scholarship, Alicia will be working as a research assistant for Dr. Nader Vadiiee on the "Simulated Tele-operated Robotics Exploration of Mars" project. Kudos to each of these accomplished SIPI students!!

On April 24, 2009, **The NMSU Summit: Five Campuses, One Vision: Successful Pathways to Higher Education**, was held at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. In attendance were dignitaries and staff from NMSU-Main, NMSU-Grants Community College, Dona Ana Community College, NMSU-Alamogordo Community College, and NMSU-Carlsbad Community College. Promoting and capitalizing on the strengths of being a system that works in a united effort, the event focused on various issues facing community colleges and provided a forum for discussing common challenges and opportunities.

Dr. Ricardo Jacquez, New Mexico AMP Director, addressed a summit on April 14, 2009 at the University of North Texas (UNT) entitled "Understanding National Science Foundation (NSF) Broader Impacts: Ways to Address UNT Broader Impacts for More Competitive Proposals." Dr. Jacquez delivered a talk entitled "Mentoring Underrepresented Groups in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)." The purpose of the event was to broaden perspectives on expanding the impact of NSF programs at UNT.

A team of six (6) researchers working across disciplines and colleges at NMSU are partnering with other New Mexico universities for a statewide collaboration on renewable energy topics. **NMSU, UNM, Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU), New Mexico Tech**, and other institutions in the state will collaborate on a \$1.5 million grant from the Department of Energy Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DOE EPSCoR) to study new pathways for energy generation. One of the **NMSU URA Mentors, Dr. Boris Kiefer, Assoc. Professor of Physics**, will lend his expertise to contribute to possible solutions to energy and fossil fuel-related problems society is likely to face in the future.

NMSU **consolidated internationalization initiatives**, including an active presence in global events and culminating with the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua**. This will make possible the offering of a joint doctoral degree in Civil Engineering. Dr. Ricardo Jacquez, New Mexico AMP Director and NMSU Interim Chair of Civil Engineering and Dr. Imelda Olague, New Mexico AMP Bridge to the Doctorate Coordinator, helped spearhead this effort.

NMSU-Main Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (**S-STEM**) students who graduated in spring 2009 include Jose Ramirez, Gabriel Luera, Eddie Martinez, Deborah Garcia, Justin Straumann, and Abelardo Rodriquez. We are very proud of each one of you. Good luck to you!!

Five New Mexico AMP students graduated in May '09 from **Luna Community College (Luna CC)**, including Andrew Montañó (AAS, Electronics Engineering Technology (EET); Jessica Ann Travis (AAS, EET); Clyde Gonzales (AAS, EET), Jessica Flores (CIS); and Michael Flores (CIS). Andrew Montano and Clyde Gonzales will attend the Summer Community College Opportunity for Research Experience (SCCORE) program in summer of 2009 at NMSU.