

New Mexico AMP CURRENTS
September, 2009

We are very excited about the upcoming statewide **New Mexico AMP Student Research Conference** at NMSU's Corbett Center on October 2nd for students and faculty in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) degree programs! Pre- and post-conference activities will be held on October 1st and 3rd for community college students. Community college students who are eligible can apply for travel stipends for the conference. At the conference, students will present their research in oral and poster formats and participate in workshops and panel presentations that help them plan their academic and professional careers. The Conference will also serve as a vehicle for student and faculty networking and as a forum for STEM students, instructors, and industry professionals to share information, ideas, experiences, and advice. For more information and/or to register for the New Mexico AMP Student Research Conference, go to <http://www.nmsu.edu/~nmamp/> or contact Josie Lannert, Conference Coordinator, at 646-3211 or the New Mexico AMP office at 646-1847. We hope to see all of you at the conference!

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (**New Mexico Tech**) Institutional Coordinator, **Allison Costello**, reports that there are six (6) Undergraduate Research Assistants (URA's) this fall. The New Mexico AMP students are making plans to attend the New Mexico AMP Student Research Conference in October, in addition to plans for several field trips and workshops for the semester.

Michele Saunders, former Summer Community College Opportunity for Research Experience (SCCORE) student who transferred to New Mexico State University (NMSU)-Main from NMSU-Grants, completed an internship this past summer in Fayetteville, North Carolina's Veteran Affairs (VA) Medical Center. In this internship, provided by Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), Michele worked in the Engineering Department and was responsible for various tasks, including project work in which she worked with AutoCAD. She also served on a Decontamination team that conducted inspections on equipment and the hospital, and she investigated the purchase of a marquee sign for the VA.. Upon graduation in spring 2011, Michele is considering a job with the VA Medical Center in North Carolina. HACU provides internships for 450 students throughout the United States, providing hands-on experiences for students.

Gerardo Martinez, NMSU Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA), attended the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) Conference that was held in Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. from August 10-13, 2009. At the conference, Gerardo attended oral and poster presentations that highlighted sense and avoid, controls and automation interface, bio-inspired UAV design, visual controls and UAV weaponization.

Jesus Sigala graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from NMSU-Main in August, 2009 and has been selected to participate in the New Mexico AMP Bridge to the Doctorate Cohort VII at NMSU this fall. Jesus has worked in the Undergraduate Research Assistantship (URA) program with Mentor Dr. Adrian Unc for several years and has also assisted Dr. Unc in the mentorship of SCCORE students. We congratulate you, Jesus, for your many accomplishments and service to New Mexico AMP!!

Bridge to the Doctorate Cohort IV participant Ricardo Luna has published two articles. One article, entitled "Experimental Demonstration of a Hybrid Link for Mitigating Atmospheric Turbulence Effects in Free Space Optical Communication" will be published in *IEEE Photonics Technology Letters*, and "Behavior of Hybrid Optical/RF Channels Over Varying Link Distances" will be published in *Proc. IEEE GLOBECOM, Honolulu, 2009*. Congratulations for this accomplishment, Ricardo!!