

VISION



“Building tomorrow’s mathematicians, engineers and scientists...today!”

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Photo by Rick Cole

Las Cruces Mayfield High School Team #1, consisting of Lachlan Boyd, Kevin Brooks, Jacob Hammond and Tim Trujillo, are all smiles after winning four events enroute to claiming the all-around trophy at the 2015 NM MESA USA championship April 24 in Roswell. Mayfield will now represent NM at the National MESA USA championship in Ogden, Utah in June.

Mayfield and Red Mountain Win MESA USA

Betty Chancey

SE Regional Coordinator

“The South Shall Rise Again!” has been a rebel yell ever since the end of the Civil War. But in New Mexico MESA, the South has not only risen but retains its dominance over the rest of the state.

Las Cruces Mayfield and Deming Red Mountain won the high school and middle school MESA USA contests at the state championship conducted at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell April 24. Mayfield takes over for Alamogordo, last year’s state high school champion. Red Mountain is repeating as middle school champion.

This southern dominance is not resulting in civil war but does have teachers and students from other parts of the state wondering what is in the water or food down south or what exactly do these teams do to overwhelm their northern competitors.

Alamogordo Advisor Manuela Klaasen explained it simply: “We work hard. These kids dedicate themselves to doing their best. They come in during lunch and after school to work on projects.”

Speaking of hard work, the New Mexico MESA staff, schools and students would like to thank New Mexico Military Institute for hosting our April 24 State MESA

See MESA USA on page 2

Red Mountain Middle School (Deming) Team #2 proudly hoists their championship trophy as they are also adorned with medallions from winning six events, including technical paper, object placement and design efficiency. Team members include (left to right) Freddy Sanchez, Adriana Darrow and Javier Rodriguez. The team advisor (not pictured) is Monika Velez.

Photo by Rick Cole



New Loyalty Award Reflects Successful Year

Toney Begay

NM MESA Executive Director

Welcome to the second edition of the New Mexico Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement, Inc. (NM MESA) e-newsletter. We’re glad to have you on board so we can share with you the various, wonderful STEM enrichment NM MESA has been providing the last several months. This e-newsletter is another venue to reach out to our clients, customers, partners, and supporters.

We realize you have numerous choices for news from organizations such as NM MESA. Our NM MESA students also have many choices. They are torn between other after-school activities and sports. By the time they are in high school, they are often bombarded with school requirements, social engagements, sports and employment. That is why we have modified our financial aid program to allow for seniors to not have to earn MESA activity points in their last semester. We understand they have commitments and plans for their future. But on their way to the future, they have been assisted and impacted by NM MESA enrichment activities throughout their middle and high school careers. Our new “Loyalty Award” (replacing the Incentive Award) recognizes loyalty to NM MESA while also remaining stringent on academic achievement. Our mission statement says: “Empower and motivate New Mexico’s culturally diverse students with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) enrichment.” We have supported these graduating seniors with a significant increase in scholarship money over last year, and now it is up to them to enter college and continue their journey to obtain a post-secondary degree, be it a technical certification or an undergraduate or graduate degree, and then enter the workforce. The instruction and extra-curricular opportunities NM MESA has given to these students is enormous and we are proud of them as they leave high school.

The resources NM MESA maintains to provide services to the 105 member schools throughout New Mexico is not easy to acquire and develop. In light of

the state economy, we were fortunate and blessed to have been designated “flat” (no gain but no loss; continuation of current monetary allocations) funding from the state legislature in the recently completed session. To this funding, we also add additional resources from various corporations and foundations in order to provide quality enrichment programs and services for the students and teachers of New Mexico.

During our recent MESA Days, 26 NM MESA advisors were recognized and honored during the closing ceremonies and given gifts. The awards were for advisors who had completed specific tenures of MESA service - five year increments from 5 years – 20 years. Thirteen of the honorees



MESA file photo

Tracie O’Geary of Northrop Grumman presents a sponsorship check to NM MESA Executive Director Toney Begay at this year’s New Mexico Electric Car Challenge.

were middle school advisors and 13 were high school advisors. We honor advisors because they are the critical link that makes NM MESA so successful. And regardless of awards, we extend a big “Thank You” to ALL of our advisors.

NM MESA Students Attend Inaugural Agriculture Education Fair

Terry Ramirez

SW Regional Coordinator

Las Cruces, New Mexico – New Mexico MESA hosted its inaugural Agriculture Education Fair on Tuesday, April 14, at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. Over 250 middle school students from NM MESA’s Southeast and Southwest regions traveled to the campus to hear from engaging speakers and participate in hands-on learning. Among the topics of the day were animal science, agriculture research,

urban pests, genetic modification of plants, greenhouse farming, and much more. The experiences at this event and the exposure to post-high school educational opportunities and careers were valuable for NM MESA students, who consistently excel in academics at their schools and have a specific interest in science, technology, engineering and math.

Traci Curry, Southern Region Director of

See Ag Fair on page 2

MESA USA Success
From Page 1

USA competition, which featured a record 18 teams, nine each in the high school and middle school divisions. As always, the facilities were amazing and the staff could not have been more helpful! Their continued support of MESA and our students is greatly appreciated.

We would also like to thank Luprino Foods, Xcel Energy and ENMU-R for providing great volunteer judges for this event!! These competitions cannot be provided without the time and expertise of these volunteers. They are great role models for our students!

For this competition, teams built a “below the elbow” prosthetic arm for \$40 or less, including the normal cost for any donated items. Judges and staff were both impressed with the quality of the devices the teams created. Teams earned points in seven different categories for their engineering.

There were four performance competitions for the prosthetic arm:

A **Distance Accuracy** Event which allowed students one minute to pick up bean bags from within a bucket and then toss them accurately into scoring zones.

An **Object Relocation** Event which required teams to pick up ten items, ranging from a two-liter bottle of soda to a pencil, and move them individually from one location to another. They then returned them to the starting point in the fastest time possible. They had a maximum allowable time of one minute.

The **Dexterity** Event was for high schools only. Using only their prosthetic arms, students had two minutes to put three different size bolts into slots in a wood board and then attach appropriate size nuts to each of the bolts.

Design Efficiency Points were calculated using the weight of the arm in proportion to performance results.

Teams also competed in three academic events:

A **Technical Paper** which included an abstract, the premise and motivation for design, a summary of the design, construction and testing phases of the arm, performance results (including diagrams, graphs and charts), analyses, conclusions and recommendations for continued development.

A **Display Poster** containing highlights of the technical paper accompanied by appropriate graphics to demonstrate the team’s design process and results.

An **Oral Presentation** of no more than 10 minutes to explain their design process to a panel of judges. Each team member was required to speak in explaining the process. The judges also conducted a question and answer session with each team.

In addition to the competitions, students participated in the high ropes course at NMMI. This consisted of teamwork and leadership with physical agility and strength to negotiate a variety of obstacles on the ground and/or up in the air. This activity served as a “fun” stress reliever for the contestants in contrast to the competition.

All points from the competition are combined to determine overall scores. The high school and middle school team with the highest point totals in their respective divisions represents New Mexico in the MESA USA National Competition, which this year will be held in Ogden, Utah in June.

Congratulations and Best Wishes for success go to:

Las Cruces Mayfield High School - the 1st Place High School Overall Winner

Deming Red Mountain Middle School Team #2 - the 1st Place Middle School Overall Winner

MESA USA Contestants and Results

Competing Teams

Crownpoint MS #1.....Crownpoint
Crownpoint MS #2

Jefferson MS.....Albuquerque

Memorial MS #1.....Las Vegas
Memorial MS #2

Red Mountain MS #1.....Deming
Red Mountain MS #2

Taylor MS.....Albuquerque

Vista MS.....Las Cruces

Alamogordo HS.....Alamogordo

Carlsbad HS.....Carlsbad

Deming HS.....Deming

Magdalena HS.....Magdalena

Mayfield HS.....Las Cruces

Mesa Vista HS.....Ojo Caliente

nex+Gen Academy #1.....Albuquerque
nex+Gen Academy #2

Socorro HS.....Socorro

Final Results

High School

Distance Accuracy

1st Deming HS team 1
2nd Alamogordo HS team 1
3rd Mayfield HS team 1

Object Relocation Task

1st Deming HS team 1
2nd Mayfield HS team 1
3rd Alamogordo HS team 1

Dexterity Task

1st Mesa Vista HS team 1
2nd Mayfield HS team 1
3rd nex+Gen team 2

Physical Performance combined

1st Mayfield HS team 1
2nd Alamogordo HS team 1
3rd Deming HS team 1

Design Efficiency

1st Mayfield HS team 1
2nd Mesa Vista HS team 1
3rd Deming HS team 1

Technical Paper

1st Carlsbad HS team 1
2nd Alamogordo HS team 1
3rd Mayfield HS team 1

Academic Display

1st Alamogordo HS team 1
2nd Socorro HS team 1
3rd Mayfield HS team 1

Oral Presentation

1st Mayfield HS team 1
1st nex+Gen team 2
3rd nex+Gen team 1

Presentation combined

1st Mayfield HS team 1
2nd Socorro HS team 1
3rd Alamogordo HS team 1

OVERALL

1st Mayfield HS team 1
2nd Alamogordo HS team 1
3rd Deming HS team 1

Middle School

Distance Accuracy

1st Taylor MS team 1
2nd Vista MS team 1
3rd Jefferson MS team 1

Object Relocation Task

1st Red Mountain MS team 2
2nd Red Mountain MS team 1
2nd Jefferson MS team 1
2nd Vista MS team 1

Physical Performance combined

1st Vista MS team 1
2nd Taylor MS team 1
2nd Jefferson MS team 1

Design Efficiency

1st Red Mountain MS team 2
2nd Jefferson MS team 1
3rd Vista MS team 1

Technical Paper

1st Red Mountain MS team 2
2nd Crownpoint MS team 1
2nd Red Mountain MS team 1

Oral Presentation

1st Vista MS team 1
2nd Red Mountain MS team 2
3rd Taylor MS team 1

Academic Poster Presentation

1st Red Mountain MS team 2
2nd Taylor MS team 1
3rd Crownpoint MS team 1

Presentation combined

1st Red Mountain MS team 2
2nd Vista MS team 1
3rd Taylor MS team 1

OVERALL

1st Red Mountain MS team 2
2nd Vista MS team 1
3rd Jefferson MS team 1



Photo by Terry Ramirez

Students attending Ag Day get to meet “Keystone,” the New Mexico State University mascot horse ridden by Jim Brown at all Aggie home football games. Keystone’s care and training were presented to the students as part of the animal husbandry taught to students. Students also learned about horticulture, soils and machinery.

Ag Fair Informs MESA
Students of Career Options...

From p. 1

New Mexico Ag in the Classroom says that New Mexico’s agriculture industry is in great need of creative young people who are interested in innovation. Though farming and ranching make up an essential part of the industry, there is equally important work to be done with research and development of technology.

“We need students to come in and develop new technologies and methods to help farmers be sustainable for the present as well as long term,” explained Curry. “We want them to develop not just a career... but a passion.”

New Mexico faces extreme issues when it comes to extended drought, lack of water resources, soil health, crop yields, and pest control, and students who are interested in engineering, entomology, chemistry, biology, have opportunities for a bright future. For example, New Mexico consistently ranks among the top three states in pecan production and research provided by

NMSU is an important component to the success of the state’s pecan industry. Ms. Curry says they need bright young students like those found in the NM MESA program to help assure the future of agriculture and guarantee that there will continue to be abundant and safe food to eat.

“We want students to realize how much they can make a difference if they study agricultural sciences,” added Curry. “Students need to realize that their love of playing in the soil and studying insects can actually lead to careers that have a huge positive global impact!”

New Mexico Ag in the Classroom donated curriculum materials and activities for the event as well as professional development for NM MESA teachers. Other donors for the event included New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, NMSU, Andrew Salazar, Technology Ventures Corporation, Southwest Dairy Farmers, and NM MESA’s Southeast and Southwest regions.

Betty Chancey - Not Your Typical Great Grandma

Rick Cole

CO Regional Coordinator

Most great grandmothers are retired, planning how to best use their leisure time. But Betty Chancey is a great grandmother who has no plans to retire and what leisure time she has is certainly not spent in a rocking chair.

Betty is the Southeast Regional Coordinator for New Mexico MESA, shepherding more than 873 students at 16 schools in STEM activities and competitions. She is the longest serving RC for NM MESA and the only RC the SE region has known since its inception in January, 2002. Her zest for service is matched by her boundless energy that is truly remarkable for someone who has been working more than 50 years.

"There is nothing else I would rather do," explained Betty. "I believe in MESA. It not only makes a difference in the lives of students, it is the only agency that makes a difference in working with school administrators. And legislators love it too."

Betty, the bride of Sonny Chancey for nearly 50 years, has deep roots in SE New Mexico. Her grandfather homesteaded a ranch in 1898 on the Llano Estacado 50 miles east of Roswell. Through hard work, wise planning and good business decisions, the ranch eventually encompassed 250 sections of prime New Mexico grassland. Betty grew up with an appreciation for hard work and was just as comfortable in the saddle as she was cheerleading for Artesia High School. Her aunt hired Betty at age 16 to do bookkeeping for a family business and Ms. Chancey has loved crunching numbers ever since.

In fact, Betty went on to get a college degree in business and began working for the financial aid office at Eastern New Mexico University in Roswell after she and Sonny decided to make the Chaves County Seat their home in 1968. And while Betty worked her way up to Director of Financial Aid, Sonny eventually became the Director of the Physical Plant at ENMU- Roswell before assuming the same position across town at the New Mexico Military Institute. Sonny eventually retired only to become an administrator for Chaves County. Betty also retired and then taught at both Goddard High School and ENMU for eight years before taking on MESA.

"Roswell is our home and we so enjoy it here," noted Betty, who is devout in her



NM MESA File Photo

Betty Chancey is both very focused and relaxed in her NM MESA office at the ENMU-Roswell campus. She also effectively combines these two characteristics while working at school sites and in competition with the more than 800 students and teachers in the Southeast Region. This ability to both engage and build rapport with people is why she is so admired and respected in the region and across the state.

Christian faith, shining the love of Jesus at work, her neighborhood and at Country Club Road Church of Christ, where she and Sonny have been active for decades. "Everything we do, we do in the best interest of our spiritual lives."

The best interest of students is what Betty also pursues as evidenced by the consistently strong showing of SE regional students in various MESA competitions. Indeed, she escorted one of her regional squads, the Alamogordo High School

MESA USA team, to the national championship in Portland last year, one of several such trips she has made over the years.

It is not uncommon for Betty to log 400 miles in a week visiting school sites to mentor teachers and students. Work weeks well over 40 hours are routine. Processing and/or creating pages of e-mails, memos, articles, letters and instruction packets are standard. "Spirited" meetings with school administrators about providing resource and time support for MESA programs are common. And giving advice on how to enjoy every day, regardless of challenge, come naturally.

But Betty is also passionate about the MESA program as a whole and is optimistic about its future.

"The MESA Board (of directors) changes have been for the better. Every one of them has good ideas and is dedicated to helping the program," said Betty. "They have become much more effective in their response to the needs of the program as education changes and as society changes."

"Our leadership is also very dedicated and so are the RCs. The planning and teamwork are always so productive. We also have wonderful teachers in the schools who give so much of their time and energy for MESA. They do it because they love it, but they deserve more pay for the incredible sacrifices they make to help their students excel. And seeing the students excel gives me hope for the future. The students in MESA are learning to be smart and resourceful."

Such commitment to excellence is why Betty is such an effective coordinator according to MESA Deputy Director Linda Andrews.

"Betty knows her schools. She knows her teachers and her principals and she knows how to work with them," stated Andrews in a recent conversation about Chancey. "They just love her in Roswell and we love her too!"

This camaraderie is an integral component of a bright future for NM MESA. And Betty is determined to do her part to continue the effective relationships in cultivating STEM excellence. Indeed, there seems to be only one thing that would cause Betty to contemplate leaving her MESA duties.

"If my grandkids moved back from Texas, maybe, just maybe, I'd retire," whispered Betty as she got up from her seat to coordinate another round of prosthetic arm competition.

The Smile of Success - Loisse Ledres

Alysyn Merrill

Gallup High School MESA Advisor

Loisse Ledres is definitely a student to be admired. At only 16 years old, Loisse is an Academic Honor Roll Senior at Gallup High School who plays varsity tennis and is very active in several different clubs and activities.

She is currently holding the positions of president for the National Honor Society (NHS), Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) and Drama clubs, vice president of MESA, and treasurer of Key Club. In addition, she managed to find time during her junior year to do an internship with an occupational therapist and also do after-school tutoring at Chief Manuelito Middle School. Loisse is also a member of the National Society of High School Scholars and received the Rotary Youth Leadership award. In addition to all of her responsi-



bilities, Loisse maintains a GPA of > 4.0 by successfully taking AP classes. She is competing for the role of Class of 2015 valedictorian at the Gallup High school graduation this year.

Loisse plans to attend the University of New Mexico for a year before she transfers to the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City to pursue a double major in fashion merchandising, marketing and package design.

The maturity, ambition, and leadership Loisse demonstrates at 16 years old are beyond compare. She ALWAYS has a smile on her face and is constantly on the go. Although we have been blessed to have her in MESA and will miss her after graduation, she has inspired those MESA students following in her footsteps. We know she will achieve great things and look forward to seeing who she becomes!

Navajo Prep's Brittany Arviso is Living the Dream...

Shawndeana Smith

West Regional Coordinator

Brittany Arviso has always been a student with goals. She strives to do her best and make the best grades possible as well as provide encouragement to her classmates and friends. Because of the influence of her father's career in electrical engineering and her strong math and analytical skills, Brittany has decided to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, MA. She has a strong desire to use her degree to help her people on the Navajo Reservation.

As a child, Brittany's parents talked to her and her brother, Lucas, about pursuing higher education. She realized it would



take a great deal of hard work to achieve her goals. However, she has managed to find creative and physical outlets that complement her pursuit of excellence in academics. By playing the stand-up bass in the San Juan College

Orchestra, she was able to obtain her creative art credit required to graduate while being able to play music. She also was a member of the Navajo Preparatory School Eagles inaugural soccer team beginning her freshman year and was nominated captain, by her teammates, each season since.

Throughout high school at Navajo Prep in Farmington, NM, she has maintained a 4.0+ GPA. Every year, she has held a student senate office. She has also participated in several other groups, including MESA, which helped her decide to become an engineer.

2015 MESA Days – Split Venues, SW



Photo by Rick Cole
Las Cruces High School Team #1 hoists their overall championship trophy after winning the 2015 MESA Day title by less than one point over cross-town rival Mayfield. Dominating the brain event was their key to success.

Rick Cole
CO Coordinator

MESA Day 2015 was unique in several ways. In spite of a powerful February snowstorm keeping 17 high schools at home, it featured more competitors than ever. It also displayed more exhibitors than ever. For the first time, high school and middle school students competed in different venues on different weekends. And the domination of the Southwest regional teams was unprecedented.

The unique character of this year’s event had its genesis in last year’s event at the Albuquerque Convention Center.

“When we put just over a thousand middle school and high school students together at the same time in the same facility, it was a little bit crazy,” explained NM MESA Deputy Director Linda Andrews. “We knew we had grown to the point that we needed to do the middle school and high school separately to maintain sanity.”

Thus, in the summer of 2014, the deci-

sion was made for the first time to make MESA Day two separate events – the Middle School MESA Day February 21 at the University of New Mexico and the High School MESA Day February 27 at the Las Cruces Convention Center adjacent to the New Mexico State University campus. This doubled the logistics as there now had to be two sets of busses doing transportation, two sets of judges, two sets of exhibitors for the Discovery Fair, etc.

Thus, after months of planning and recruiting support personnel, the sun rose over the Sandia Mountains to greet more than 600 middle school students on 162 teams as they arrived at UNM to compete in Johnson Gym and the Student Union Building. Students rotated between three competitions – the prosthetic arm, Alice computer programming and brain anatomy and function – and the Discovery Fair, a menagerie of more than two dozen educational organizations and agencies. Interest in the Fair was keen throughout the day.

“This is absolutely wonderful!” ex-

claimed Barbara Lazar, a Bosque Prep English teacher, who along with her husband manned an outdoor energy display. “The kids are very enthused, have lots of questions and are eager to learn.”

Competition inside the adjoining buildings was also enthusiastic. Red Mountain Middle School (Deming) Team #1 clinched the prosthetic arm event with 200 points, 25 more than their nearest competitor, runner-up Alta Vista Middle School (Carlsbad) team #9. Portales Middle School team #1 edged Chaparral (Gadsden) team #1 by three points to earn the gold in Alice while Chaparral (Gadsden) team #2 also posted a three-point margin to squeak by Lynn (Las Cruces) team #7 in the brain event.

Overall, the Southwest Region middle schools cleaned house as they won the top nine overall positions, led by Chaparral (Gadsden) team #2 with 495 points. Chaparral team #4 earned the silver with 446 and Vista (Las Cruces) team #1 secured the bronze with 443 points. In fact, middle schools from the SW region won 16 of the

2015 High School MESA Day Overall Results (Top Ten)					
Place	Team Name	Alice	Brain	Arm	Total
1	Las Cruces HS Team 1	143.35	160.00	145.00	448.35
2	Mayfield HS Team 1	154.70	138.00	155.00	447.70
3	Cibola HS Team 1	145.96	118.00	170.00	433.96
4	Portales HS Team 1	159.09	123.00	150.00	432.09
5	Alamogordo HS Team 3	177.20	103.00	145.00	425.20
6	Miyamura HS Team 2	159.54	97.00	160.00	416.54
7	Espanola Valley HS Team 3	142.03	109.00	160.00	411.03
8	Mesa Vista HS Team 3	117.57	102.00	190.00	409.57
9	Gallup HS Team 3	151.25	116.00	135.00	402.25
10	Deming HS Team 1	135.46	91.00	175.00	401.46

Prosthetic Arm Results		
Place	Team Name	Total
1	Mesa Vista HS Team 3	190.00
2	Deming HS Team 1	175.00
2	Alamogordo HS Team 4	175.00
4	Cibola HS Team 1	170.00
4	South Valley Team 4	170.00
6	nex+Gen Acad. Team 2	165.00
6	Alamogordo HS Team 5	165.00
6	Magdalena HS Team 1	165.00
9	Mesa Vista HS Team 2	160.00
9	Alta Vista Team 2	160.00



Photo by Rick Cole
New Mexico State University graduate students align solar telescopes for use by MESA students at the 2015 High School MESA Day on the NMSU Campus. More than 400 students had the opportunity to gaze upon the sun in all its glory.

Alice Software Results		
Place	Team Name	Total
1	Alamogordo HS Team 3	177.20
2	Amy Biehl HS team 1	166.82
3	Las Cruces HS Team 3	165.72
4	Highland HS team 2	163.36
5	Miyamura HS team 2	159.54
6	Portales HS team 1	159.09
7	Mayfield HS team 1	154.70
8	Gallup HS team 3	151.25
9	Belen HS Team 2	150.60
10	Belen HS Team 1	150.00

Brain Anatomy/Physiology Results		
Place	Team Name	Total
1	Las Cruces HS Team 1	160
2	Springer HS Team 2	139
3	Mayfield HS Team 1	138
4	nex+Gen Acad. Team 3	137
5	Socorro HS Team 2	134
6	Belen HS Team 1	127
7	Gallup HS Team 5	126
8	Alamogordo HS Team 4	125
9	Centennial HS Team 4	124
9	Cibola HS Team 4	124



Photo by Rick Cole
Ryan Wardell of Volcano Vista High School transports a two-liter bottle of water to the deposit bin during the prosthetic arm contest at the 2015 High School MESA Day. VVHS, the defending overall champion, made a strong showing but did not crack top 10 this year in very stiff competition.



Photo by Rick Cole
MESA Day contestants are stunned to see “cancer” in the giant inflatable colon.

Dominance and Weather Highlight

top 20 overall spots. SW Regional Coordinator Terry Ramirez was all smiles to witness such success while North Coordinator Matt Solano joked that “there must be some kind of conspiracy.”

There was no evidence of a conspiracy, but the SW would be dominant again six days later when they won three of the top 10 overall high school slots, including first and second place. Originally, 180 teams were registered to compete at the HS event, but one of the strongest snowstorms on record for the end of February in New Mexico kept 17 high schools from traveling to the event.

For those teams that were present, a chill breeze outdoors stood in stark contrast to the intensely “hot” competition indoors. The prosthetic arm event, in particular, ran overtime because of the sheer number of high quality entries.

“Yeah, I say ‘Wow’ in seeing some of these arms,” noted junior Mike Chambers of Magdalena High School making its first-ever appearance at MESA Day. And

although Magdalena did not win any prizes at MESA Day, two weeks later Chambers would lead the Steers to their first-ever state basketball championship as the state’s only undefeated squad.

“The kids did put together some really great projects this year,” noted SE Regional Coordinator Betty Chancey, who managed the prosthetic arm event.” I am so proud of how hard they worked to get here and how much effort they put into competing. I am exhausted, but the teams are great.”

Mesa Vista HS Team #3 won the prosthetic arm event with 190 of 200 possible points. Deming #1 and Alamogordo #4 tied for second with 175 each.

Alamogordo #3 clinched the Alice event with 177 points while Amy Biehl Charter School #1 earned runner-up with 167. And the brain event proved to be the toughest contest for earning points as Las Cruces #1 claimed victory with a relatively low 160. Springer #2 which traveled more than 400 miles to compete secured runner-up with 139 points.

“I’m so proud of Springer,” said North Coordinator Matt Solano. “They drove through so much snow to get here while other teams from the region just bagged it with so much snow on the ground.”

Overall, the brain victory for Las Cruces was crucial for the Bulldawg MESA team as they edged cross-town rival Mayfield #1 by less than a single point, 448.35 to 447.70, to earn the overall title in one of the tightest finishes in MESA Day history. Cibola #1 earned the bronze with 433.96 to round out the top three.

“For all those here, this was a good MESA Day,” explained MESA Executive Director Toney Begay. “I just wish everyone could have competed. We had never been affected by a snowstorm like this before.”

Yes, MESA Day 2015 is memorable in many ways. And it set a precedent for even more memory-making success next year. It will indeed determine the nature of next year’s MESA Day as planning takes place this summer to shape next year’s events.

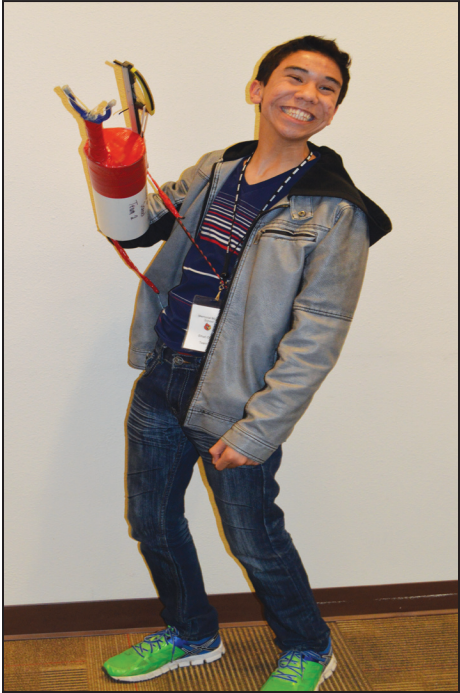


Photo by Rick Cole
Ethan O. of Memorial MS shows off his colorful prosthetic before competition.

Prosthetic Arm Results		
Place	Team Name	Total
1	Red Mountain MS Team 1	200
2	Carlsbad MS Team 9	175
3	Carlos Vigil MS Team 4	170
4	Carlsbad MS Team 1	165
4	Red Mountain MS Team 3	165
4	Carlos Vigil MS Team 1	165
7	Alamogordo MS Team 2	160
7	Chaparral Gadsden Team 2	160
9	Carlsbad Leyva IS Team 7	155
9	Gadsden MS Team 5	155

2015 Middle School MESA Day Overall Results (Top Ten)					
Place	Team Name	Alice	Brain	Arm	Total
1	Chaparral MS Gadsden Team 2	154.18	181.00	160.00	495.18
2	Chaparral MS Gadsden Team 4	148.18	158.00	140.00	446.18
3	Vista MS Team 1	139.48	169.00	135.00	443.48
4	Red Mountain MS Team 3	148.18	129.00	165.00	442.18
5	Vista MS Team 2	150.85	158.00	130.00	438.85
6	Chaparral MS Gadsden Team 3	154.18	163.00	120.00	437.18
7	Vista MS Team 3	140.18	161.00	135.00	436.18
8	Red Mountain MS Team 1	103.28	132.00	200.00	435.28
9	CC Snell MS Team 2	124.38	160.00	150.00	434.38
10	Carlos F. Vigil MS Team 4	118.65	144.00	170.00	432.65

Alice Software Results		
Place	Team Name	Total
1	Portales Jr. High Team 1	168.70
2	Chaparral Gadsden Team 1	1165.18
3	CIS PR Leyva Team 3	163.82
4	Berrendo MS team 3	158.00
5	Taylor MS Team 3	156.70
6	Carlsbad MS Team 2	155.18
7	Chaparral Gadsden Team 2	154.18
7	Chaparral Gadsden Team 3	154.18
9	Vista MS Team 2	150.85
10	Taylor MS Team 2	149.03

Brain Anatomy/Physiology Results		
Place	Team Name	Total
1	ChaparralGadsden Team 2	181.00
2	Lynn MS Team 7	178.00
3	Lynn MS Team 2	170.00
4	Vista MS Team 1	169.00
5	Lynn MS Team 4	168.00
6	Chaparral Gadsden Team 1	167.00
7	Chaparral Gadsden Team 3	163.00
8	Vista MS Team 3	161.00
9	CC Snell MS Team 2	160.00
9	Jefferson MS Team 1	160.00



Photos by Rick Cole
(Above) Students and teachers are able to gaze at the sun courtesy of special glasses provided by the Albuquerque Astronomical Society. (Below) Vista Middle School Team #1 celebrates earning third place overall at the 2015 Middle School Mesa Day. Team members include Nico O’Hara, Maribel Sanchez and Lindsay McNew.



Photo by Rick Cole
The CC Snell MS Team competes in the prosthetic arm event in Johnson Gym.





Photo by Kim Scheerer

The Zoo Crew teaches students about Gila Monsters and other reptiles.

Zing into Spring with MESA things...

Kim Scheerer

CI Regional Coordinator

Getting an opportunity to have fun, be unique and engage with others is a positive learning trigger for most folks. MESA's Central Inner and Central Outer regions' teachers and students found festive ways to connect those concepts with our Spring Zing in early March.

This second annual event was hosted by the MESA club at Valley High School under the leadership of Computer Aided Design (CAD) teacher and MESA advisor Serri Grube. Kicking off the day, a service learning panel from Animal Humane New Mexico, Habitat for Humanity and the United Way of Central New Mexico shared ideas and ways that students, families and schools can get involved and make a difference in their community. It was easy to see the impacts that getting connected with service learning programs can make, whether with local pets, homes or people. Students were also able to visit either a Fractal Foundation or Zoo Crew workshop.

Fractal participants created amazing mathematical patterns while those students with the Zoo Crew learned from herpetolo-

gist Jerry Tuttle and his team. Jerry is the only educator in the state to have officially registered Gila Monsters. He works to share the Gila's unique story and give students positive experiences with snakes and other lizards.

Our Spring Zing also got students on the move. CO school West Mesa brought their teamwork obstacle course, complete with moveable beams and good attitudes. Students either worked with each other to complete the course or took a series of team building challenges from the nex+Gen Academy MESA students. Both activities helped students focus on their communication and listening skills – important qualities for any MESA student.

Finally, no MESA adventure is complete without a creative engineering design build, so we did just that! The University of New Mexico (UNM) based Hispanics in Engineering and Sciences Organization (HESO) students led two "Create and Compete" activities. Both activities had students working in teams to create a transport mechanism for competition. The HESO volunteers helped in a variety of ways. They mentored teams, scored the challenge and provided MESA students a chance to find out more about the college.



Photo by Kim Scheerer

Utilized at many a workshop over the past several years, the West Mesa HS low ropes course created a meaningful teamwork experience as well as a challenge in balance, agility and physical strength.

Discovery and Service Spice CO Region Activities

Rick Cole

CO Regional Coordinator

Discovery and Service are two of the core values listed in the New Mexico MESA mission statement. And these two values were complementary to the many STEM enrichment activities in the Central Outer Region this spring.

CO MESA Advisors staged a dozen field trips and 44 service learning projects during the semester. Be it exploring Anasazi ruins, hiking majestic mountain trails, exploring the forests, testing river water or learning about government in Santa Fe, CO students discovered that STEM is not confined to the classroom or even the laboratory.

Taylor Middle School eighth grader Keiley Reil reflected, "I didn't know Chaco Canyon would have so much to see. It was neat to see how well the Indians built things when they didn't have modern technology."

Micaela Zamora of Sarracino Middle School was equally impressed with her legislative field trip to the State Capitol.

"I was really nervous to meet Mr. Tripp (Speaker of the House and Socorro County representative). But it was good to talk to him. He was very friendly. And getting to see the Capitol – it was so beautiful it was amazing!"

And when it came to service learning, CO students did everything from clean their school grounds to work food drives for the less fortunate, collect personal hygiene items for the homeless to knit caps for hospital patients. And these are just to name a few of the many ways they made a difference in their communities.

"Ms. (Luisa) Castillo (West Mesa HS Advisor) has all these ideas how to help people," explained senior Jordan Caldwell, Mustang MESA Student of the Year. "It's good."

West Mesa certainly set the pace for CO schools in service learning, but each school made some kind of meaningful project and most had multiple service projects during

the semester.

These are a nice complement to the competitive success enjoyed by CO students during the spring. Cibola HS placed third overall at MESA Day while Taylor Middle School and Socorro High School both finished top five at MESA USA last month. Taylor won the distance accuracy toss while Socorro was runner-up in the academic component of the prosthetic arm.

"We are very proud of the kids," said Taylor Advisor Margarita Smith. "They worked together really well and scored points in nearly every category."

"I'm a sophomore," explained Socorro High School student Emerald Goranson. "I want to do this (MESA USA) again."

The MESA mission in the CO Region extends into the summer as teachers get

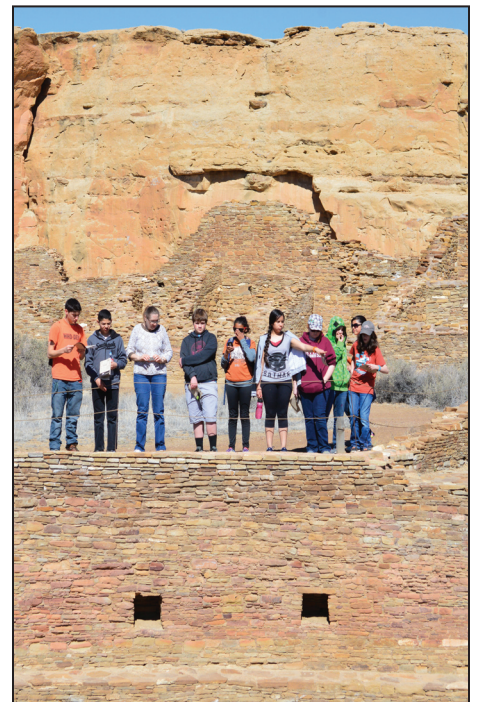


Photo by Rick Cole

Taylor MS MESA Advisor Margarita Smith and students gaze down into an ancient kiva at Chaco Canyon NP.

professional development and students are encouraged to have fun exploring.

Rina is "Reina" of Gadsden Chaparral MESA Program

Fourth-year Advisor leads teams to win top three positions at 2015 Middle School MESA Day

Terry Ramirez

SW Regional Coordinator

This year, Chaparral Middle School in the Gadsden district took home three of the top 10 overall awards at the Middle School MESA Day February 21, 2015 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Guiding the students to victory was advisor Rina Viramontes.

Mrs. Rina Viramontes and her MESA Students were recognized by the Gadsden Independent School District School Board on February 26th. Students were introduced by their MESA Advisor and their Principal, Mrs. Marti Muela. The School Board congratulated each of the students and took the time from their meeting to recognize Chaparral Middle and all of their accomplishments. They also recognized the MESA Staff, who attended the ceremony. It was very rewarding to see the School Board recognize students for their academic accomplishments.

Mrs. Viramontes is a 7th grade math teacher who has been a MESA advisor for 4 years.



**Rina Viramontes -
La Reina de MESA**

"MESA is one of the reasons I love my job," said Viramontes. "I enjoy working with the students and getting to know my students outside of the classroom. I learn a lot from them and the way they think. They come up with so many ideas. They work together as a team and they help each other. They are a family and I love being

part of the family. My students push each other to do the best that then can, they discuss, and they come to agreements.

"The students in MESA learn so much from the experiences that they are given. Just this year, they have been able to travel to Dallas and compete against engineering-focused high schools. This is a group of middle school students who earned a spot in the Dallas Regional BEST robotics competition.

"The students in MESA learn about the challenges in the engineering process, and even if they didn't place, they learn from others. MESA provides students with the experiences, and they learn more from those experiences, than they would from a lecture. My students have really worked hard this year. I am very proud of them, no matter the outcome."



The New Mexico MESA staff (family) from left to right: Shawndeana Smith - West Coordinator, Matt Solano - North Coordinator, Linda Andrews - Deputy Director, Anita Gonzales - Program Coordinator, Toney Begay - Executive Director, Nicholas Kunz - North Central Coordinator, Terry Ramirez - Southwest Coordinator, Betty Chancey - Southeast Coordinator and Rick Cole - Central Outer Coordinator. Not pictured - Kimi Scheerer - Central Inner Coordinator, John Davis - Information Technology Manager, Helena Kirkwood - Bookkeeper.

La Familia MESA

Selected as one of the best places to work in New Mexico in 2014

Linda Andrews

NM MESA Deputy Director

Are there familial ties in NM MESA? Yes, definitely! The working familial relationships are many and varied. They are what make the NM MESA “La Familia” an important part of the program.

The relationship of the NM MESA staff and the students grows each year the student participates. Events and activities allow the staff to interact and get to know the students. It is so rewarding to see students smile and realize that they are enjoying themselves and learning about STEM at the same time. We celebrate with them when they accomplish a goal and commiserate when they think they are not doing as well as needed. We are NM MESA La Familia!

The Board of Directors is composed of highly qualified individuals that commit themselves to serve NM MESA. They are part of the family when they volunteer to help us at our many events and activities. It is always a pleasure to see board members helping; we can always tell how much NM MESA means to them. We are NM MESA La Familia!

NM MESA has many other stakeholders: corporate sponsors, educational colleagues and institutions, foundation sponsors, etc. We could not do what we do without them. Our family incorporates all of them into our fold. They bring many things to us: volunteers, consultant expertise in many areas, funding, facilities, in-kind donations, etc. Our website denotes all of our sponsors and partners. We are NM MESA La Familia!

For all of the aforementioned families to work, there has to be one family that is the center of all, the NM MESA staff. Everyone should be able to see how close the 12 staff members are to each other. We are close to all of the individual families of our staff also, always having them included in every “get-together” that we have: they are part of the fun of our staff retreats and other trips and activities that we do. We laugh and cry together. We are NM MESA La Familia!

The closeness and togetherness of NM MESA stakeholders is unique compared to most work groups. This is one of the things that made NM MESA one of NM Best Places to Work, as awarded in 2014 by Albuquerque Business First. **We are MESA La Familia!**



La Familia celebrates the addition of Kimi Scheerer as the Central Inner Regional Coordinator in December. L to R, Toney Begay, Linda Andrews, Kimi Scheerer, John Davis, Helena Kirkwood, Yoliy Gamboa and Nick Kunz. Photo by Rick Cole

New Mexico Legislature Visited by MESA students

Nicholas Kunz
North Central Regional Coordinator

On March 17, 2015, NM MESA students and advisors from four regions around the state attended MESA’s annual “MESA Day at the Legislature” at the Roundhouse in Santa Fe. Participating groups included East Mountain High School in Albuquerque, Sarracino Middle School in Socorro, Capshaw Middle School in Santa Fe, Santa Rosa High School in Santa Rosa, and West Las Vegas High School in Las Vegas. About 75 MESA students participated.

The day’s activities began with a trip to the floor of the House of Representatives, where students were allowed the rare privilege of sitting in the representatives’ chairs. They heard from Rosina Boyd, Assistant Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, who talked to them about the workings of their state government, followed by Steven Shaw, Sergeant at Arms in the House of Representatives, who discussed the daily work done all year by hundreds of employees to maintain Roundhouse operating procedures. They were also treated to the deep and lively voice of the House’s Bill Reader, Robert Tansey. Tansey told students about how he became involved with his state government and ultimately found an interesting and exciting job at the Roundhouse.

Roya Ahmadi-Moghadam, a student at Capshaw Middle School was excited about what she heard. “I learned about how the state government works and the exact way people discuss bills.”

While in the Capitol Building’s central Rotunda, Toney Begay, NM MESA’s Executive Director introduced students to some of the great supporters of MESA, each of whom delivered a passionate and inspiring speech about the many future opportunities available to bright young MESA students. Speakers included Representative Yvette Harrell, Representative Tomas Salazar, Senator Sue Wilson Belfort, NM Public Education Secretary, Hanna Skandera, NM Secretary of Higher Education, Dr. Barbara Damron, and Tracie O’Geary, Member of the NM MESA Board of Directors.

Students and their advisors also took a guided tour of the Roundhouse and visited their respective senators and representatives to talk about how MESA has impacted their lives. Students learned about the capitol’s unique architecture, stunning art collection and various staffing. They also gained appreciation for the sheer volume of legislation attempted and achieved in each legislative session.

Kevin Dominguez of West Las Vegas High School said, “I was happy to meet Secretary Skandera.”



Hanna Skandera
NM Education Secretary

“Alice” is Beginning of New Trend in MESA Competitions

Matt Solano
North Coordinator

New Mexico MESA explored computer programming as an event in the 2014-2015 MESA year. The event was a success as both middle and high school students discovered the basics of computer programming using Alice software. Alice was created as a starting point for students to do object-oriented programming using drag and drop commands. The event consisted of students competing

through “worlds” (successive levels of the program) which had them learn math skills and logic while completing design objectives in a 3-dimensional world. Overall feedback indicates the students were pleased with Alice as a starting point in computer programming. It is now under consideration to make the next step in MESA “computer-based” competition an event in which the students create their own programs. Details will be forthcoming as they become available.



Photo by Rick Cole

Students contemplate symbols and commands as part of the Alice examination at the High School MESA Day in Las Cruces. Computer-programming competitions could be here to stay because of both their relevance and popularity.

North Makes up for Snow; Seniors Win Many Loyalty Awards

Matt Solano
North Regional Coordinator

Well, the school year is almost over. I would like to thank all the students and advisors for another great year in the North Region. This year MESA Day was another great success at both the middle and high school levels. However, we had a hiccup with the High School MESA Day due to one of the winter’s biggest snowstorms, causing many high schools, including most in the north region, to cancel the trip to Las Cruces to compete. But we had one lonely school (Springer) travel through “ten feet” of snow to participate in the Las Cruces event. I want to actually congratulate them for representing the North plus they were able to take third place in the Brain event. The North Region advisors also decided to have a makeup MESA Day for the schools that couldn’t attend the original MESA Day due to snow. The high school students that participated brought their “A” game on makeup day, running all the same events. Competing schools were able to obtain scores that would have placed them at MESA Day. Robertson High School team 4 would have tied for first place in the arm, West Las Vegas team 6 would have taken 3rd, West Las Vegas team 5 would have taken 3rd overall, and West Las Vegas team 6 would have taken 9th overall. The North also had the great privilege



Photo by Matt Solano
North Region students pose at World College.

of having a day filled with leadership activities and Explora STEM events at the United World College. The United World College is located in the beautiful hills of Montezuma where they house teachers and students from around the world. The United World College, located just northwest of Las Vegas, is the only one of their 16 campuses around the world located in the United States. The students got to spend time learning about the history of the United World College while working with international students from around the world and country. The MESA USA competition just wrapped up in Roswell where 18 schools participated in the event. I would like to thank the Memorial Middle School team for representing the North. I am very proud of these young students as they showed what the North can bring; this is the starting point for the North as I hope to see more schools participate in the future. As I noted previously, the year is winding down and seniors are graduating. This year the North was able to have 31 seniors receive the MESA Loyalty Award. The North earned awards totaling \$27,955. This was 83% of the seniors that qualified for the award that completed the application. With that in mind I encourage the juniors to begin looking on-line at their MIMS data now to see how much they need to do next year to qualify for the Loyalty Award or even earn a bonus Einstein award. If any students or parents would like to know about the MESA program in the North, please call me at 505-426-2021.

Southwest Region Takes Top Awards in MESA Day & MESA USA

Terry Ramirez
SW Regional Coordinator

The Southwest Region MESA programs were rewarded for their hard work at both the High School and Middle School MESA Day Competition events by taking top honors for their performances. The Middle School MESA Day Competition took place on February 21st, 2015 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Southwest Region demonstrated unusual domination as it brought home 1st- 9th places overall. The 1st through 9th place winning teams came from Chaparral Middle, Vista Middle, Red Mountain Middle, Lynn Middle and CC Snell Middle. On February 27th, the Southwest Region hosted the High School MESA Day Competition in Las Cruces. Three of the top ten spots went to the Southwest Region

schools. Las Cruces High, Mayfield high and Deming High were among the winners. Las Cruces High won 1st Place, Mayfield High took second and Deming High took 9th Place overall. On April 24th, Southwest Region schools participated in the MESA USA competition. The winners were again from the Southwest Region! Red Mountain and Vista were the first and second place winners in the Middle School division. In the High School Division, Mayfield and Deming won first and third place Overall. Red Mountain Middle and Mayfield High will represent the State of New Mexico in the MESA USA Nationals this coming June in Ogden, Utah. As the Southwest Region won and dominated all three state competitions, it is obvious that actions speak louder than words: THE SOUTHWEST REGION ROCKS!!!

SE Individuals and Teams Succeed

Betty Chancey
SE Region Coordinator

This has been such a successful and exciting year for the Southeast Region MESA schools. There are so many things happening that it is impossible to recognize all the important events that occurred this spring. Individual achievements have been significant. The new Devon Energy Achievement Award of \$10,000 was awarded to senior MESA student Luke Klaus at Carlsbad High School. Luke will be attending NM Tech next year as an engineering student. Meanwhile in the land of the Tigers, Alamogordo High School senior Wayne McFarland has been accepted to the Citadel, the Military Academy of South Carolina where he plans to pursue a degree in Engineering. Two students from the Carlsbad High School MESA program. 11th Grade Nathan Christensen, and 10th grade Yoni Xiong, will be participating in the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) this month. The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), a program of Society for Science & the Public (SSP), is the world’s largest international pre-college science competition



Luke Klaus



Wayne McFarland

culminating the planet’s largest annual interscholastic competition. More than 1,700 high school students from over 70 countries, regions, and territories showcase their independent research as they compete for more than \$5 million in prizes. These students are the winners from among more than 3 million contestants at the local and regional levels. Truly, the Intel ISEF is the premier global science competition for students in grades 9–12. Nathan is this year’s competitor from the SE Region Science Fair. He will be competing in the Mechanical/Electrical Engineering division with his unique design for a robotic lawnmower. He has the opportunity to win more than \$500,000 in scholarships and awards. Yoni Xiong earned the right to go as the observer this year by taking first in her category at the regional fair and third at the state science Fair. Observers do everything the competitors do except compete, which includes tours, workshops and getting to meet and interact with Nobel Prize winning scientists. Both Nathan and Yoni have been members of MESA for the past five years and compete in other events as well. This Spring, SE MESA schools have participated in Science Olympiad, Science Fair, Envirothon, MESA Day, MESA USA and several are competing in Innoventure and RoboRave this month. Portales High School won 4th Place Overall and Alamogordo High School won 5th Place Overall at our High School Statewide MESA Day competition in February. At our recent MESA USA statewide competition, Alamogordo High School received 2nd Place Overall which edged them out of returning to Nationals in Utah this summer. Carlsbad High School took 1st Place in the Technical Paper Event. Please watch for the SE Region Newsletter that will highlight regional schools’ activities and student achievements this year—coming soon! And also be sure to finish the school year strong, be it as a teacher grading finals or as a student taking finals.



Nathan Christensen and Yoni Xiong - representing Carlsbad and NM at the Intel ISEF

NM MESA announces 2015 Loyalty Award Recipients

John Davis

NM MESA IT Manager

This year NM MESA will give out a total of over \$100,000 in Loyalty Awards for NM MESA High School senior students to use for their first year of college.

A record 146 students earned the Loyalty Award with the average award per student of \$762. This amount is almost double the \$480 average awarded last year under our Incentive Award. The number of students earning an award also went up from 86 students in 2014 to the 146 students this year.

The Loyalty Award recognizes and awards the students’ loyalty to NM MESA through their participation in activities and events. It also recognizes and awards the students’ academic achievements.

NM MESA students can earn up to \$1000. The Loyalty Award consists of two levels, MESA Success (\$500) and Einstein Bonus (up to an additional \$500). The student must qualify for the MESA Success in order to earn the Einstein Bonus.

To earn the MESA Success, the student must pass minimum criteria of both active participation in NM MESA and academic benchmarks similar to the state’s university requirements for admission.

In the Einstein Bonus, merit is simply based on what is achieved. All 146 students achieved at least one Einstein Bonus along with meeting MESA Success.

The Einstein Bonus criteria with the number of students achieving each criterion in parenthesis: Class Rank Top 10%, (45); ACT > 20 or SAT > 999, (79); GPA >= 3.8, (66); MESA Officer, (56) Additional STEM Course beyond state requirements, (114); 2 or more AP/Dual Credit Course, (112).

The goal of this award is to encourage students to participate in the structured, focused, interactive NM MESA program as they prepare for college and careers in STEM. The MESA Success points are for what they learn on their journey and the Einstein Bonus is to reward their extra achievement earned along the way.

Recipients of the award came from more than 40 cities, towns and villages in New Mexico including Abiquiu, Alto, Buena Vista, Churchrock, Crownpoint, Sapello, Ojo Caliente, Sapello and Springer.

Following is a list of this year’s recipients:

Central Inner Region

Stephanie Chavez, Albuquerque HS, Albuquerque
Maya Wormwood, Albuquerque HS, Albuquerque
Irving Flores, Amy Biehl HS, Albuquerque
Elexis Lopez, Amy Biehl HS, Albuquerque
Stephanie Brink, East Mountain HS, Sandia Park
Kevin Helfert, East Mountain HS, Sandia Park
Michelle Hileman, East Mountain HS, Sandia Park
Casey McCall, East Mountain HS, Sandia Park
Quinter Nyland, East Mountain HS, Sandia Park
Owen Parkins, East Mountain HS, Sandia Park
Rozee Benavides, Manzano HS, Albuquerque
James Donnelly, Manzano HS, Albuquerque
Quang Ha, Manzano HS, Albuquerque
Minh Le, Manzano HS, Albuquerque
Victoria Lujan, Manzano HS, Albuquerque
Nghia Vo, Manzano HS, Albuquerque

Cindy Chavez-Villa, South Valley Academy, Albuquerque
Luis Estrada, South Valley Academy, Albuquerque
Victor Rodriguez, South Valley Academy, Albuquerque
Marco Valenzuela, South Valley Academy, Albuquerque
Karina Veleta, South Valley Academy, Albuquerque
Autumn Allen, Valley HS, Albuquerque
Mariah Archuleta, Valley HS, Albuquerque
Daisy Nevarez, Valley HS, Albuquerque

Central Outer Region

Nathaniel Gil, Atrisco Heritage Academy HS, Albuquerque
Arik Riley, Atrisco Heritage Academy HS, Albuquerque
Marisa Baca, Belen HS, Belen
Adrian De la Cruz, Belen HS, Belen
Spencer Merrill, Belen HS, Belen
Johnathon Garcia, Cibola HS, Albuquerque
Daniela Salinas, Cibola HS, Albuquerque
Julieta Carrillo, Rio Grande HS, Albuquerque
Sara Quintana, Rio Grande HS, Albuquerque
Camilla Aitbayev, Socorro HS, Socorro
Isabella Rivera, Volcano Vista HS, Albuquerque

Marilynn Gallegos, Espanola Valley HS, Espanola
Raquel Pacheco, Espanola Valley HS, Espanola
Shiann Barela, Mesa Vista HS, Ojo Caliente
Christopher Dominguez, Mesa Vista HS, Ojo Caliente
Reina Duran, Mesa Vista HS, Ojo Caliente
Matthew Sandoval, Mesa Vista HS, Ojo Caliente
Jose Terrazas, Mesa Vista HS, Ojo Caliente
Luke Villareal, Mesa Vista HS, Ojo Caliente

North Region

Alexis Armijo, Mora HS, Mora
Analisa Chavez, Mora HS, Mora
April Gallegos, Mora HS, Mora
Genoveva Hurtado, Mora HS, Mora
Monique Martinez, Mora HS, Mora
Julianne Mendoza, Mora HS, Mora
Gilbert Ramirez, Mora HS, Mora
Derrick Vigil, Mora HS, Mora
Alicia Lujan, Penasco HS, Peñasco
Mapiya Rakestraw, Penasco HS, Peñasco
Ryan Apodaca, Robertson HS, Las Vegas
Vanessa Chung, Robertson HS, Las Vegas
Brooke Cornay, Robertson HS, Las Vegas
Caitlin Diefendorf, Robertson HS, Las Vegas



Photo by Rick Cole

Socorro High School Senior Camilla Aitbayev, who plans to attend Georgetown University, not only competes in the dexterity event at MESA USA, she also qualifies for both the MESA Success Award and the Einstein Bonus award. She is among the 146 seniors earning loyalty awards.

querque
Jacob Wardell, Volcano Vista HS, Albuquerque
Ryan Wardell, Volcano Vista HS, Albuquerque
Samantha Banda, West Mesa HS, Albuquerque
Jordan Caldwell, West Mesa HS, Albuquerque
Raquel Torres, West Mesa HS, Albuquerque

North Central Region

Robert Binyon, Bernalillo HS, Bernalillo
Eugene Otero, Bernalillo HS, Bernalillo
Eduardo Melero-Garcia, Bernalillo HS, Bernalillo
Daniella Sena-Chavez, Bernalillo HS, Bernalillo
Isaiah Wright-Wiggins, Bernalillo HS, Bernalillo
Camereon Baldonado, Espanola Valley HS, Espanola
Andrea Chavez-Arreola, Espanola Valley HS, Espanola

gas
Melinda Garcia, Robertson HS, Las Vegas
Erica Rae Herrera, Robertson HS, Las Vegas
MacKenzie Houdek, Robertson HS, Las Vegas
Alicia Jaramillo, Robertson HS, Las Vegas
Richard Montoya, Robertson HS, Las Vegas
Joshua Romero, Robertson HS, Las Vegas
Eugene Salazar, Robertson HS, Las Vegas
Amber Yara, Robertson HS, Las Vegas
Chandelle Sisneros, Santa Rosa HS, Santa Rosa
Isaac Velasquez, Santa Rosa HS, Santa Rosa
Cassidy Kear, Springer HS, Springer
Anthony Romero, Springer HS, Springer
Leticia Branch, West Las Vegas HS, Las Vegas
Salvador Lopez, West Las Vegas HS, Las Vegas
Joseph Pacheco, West Las Vegas HS, Las Vegas
Joedy Quintana, West Las Vegas HS, Las Vegas

Southeast Region

Wayne McFarland, Alamogordo HS, Alamogordo
Katelynn Pinkerton, Artesia High School, Artesia
William Bowman, Carlsbad HS, Carlsbad
Luke Klaus, Carlsbad HS, Carlsbad
Steven Arthur, Goddard HS, Roswell
Patrick Collins, Goddard HS, Roswell
Nathan Franco, Goddard HS, Roswell
Christian Healy, Goddard HS, Roswell
Tristen Hellmers, Goddard HS, Roswell
Mande Hudson, Goddard HS, Roswell
Desiree Martinez, Goddard HS, Roswell
Andres Perez, Goddard HS, Roswell
Troy Sanders, Goddard HS, Roswell
Ethan Urquidez, Goddard HS, Roswell
Cory Gutierrez, Portales HS, Portales
Casey Pedigo, Portales HS, Portales
Gevyn Rasco, Portales HS, Portales
Nathaniel Delarosa, Roswell HS, Roswell
Ember Howes, Roswell HS, Roswell
Eligio Madrid III, Roswell HS, Roswell
Omar Martinez, Roswell HS, Roswell
Hiram Olvera, Roswell HS, Roswell
Gilberto Alvarado, Ruidoso HS, Ruidoso
Ian Bigger, Ruidoso HS, Ruidoso
Raina Duncan, Ruidoso HS, Ruidoso
Rocky Cordova, Ruidoso HS, Ruidoso
Orlando Orona, Ruidoso HS, Ruidoso
Kaitlan Ruckel, Ruidoso HS, Ruidoso

Southwest Region

Erick Jimenez, Alta Vista Early College, Chaparral
Juan Cox-Morones, Cobre HS, Bayard
Nicholas Finik, Cobre HS, Bayard
Elijah Hines, Cobre HS, Bayard
Brandy Lozano, Gadsden HS, Anthony
Robert Madrid, Gadsden HS, Anthony
Mary Rodriguez, Gadsden HS, Anthony
Joshua Tarin, Gadsden HS, Anthony
Rosa Triviz, Gadsden HS, Anthony
Priscilla Amaya, Las Cruces HS, Las Cruces
Justin Balderas, Las Cruces HS, Las Cruces
Elijah Barrio Moya, Las Cruces HS, Las Cruces
Elena Davidson, Las Cruces HS, Las Cruces
Connie Hu, Las Cruces HS, Las Cruces
Hoon Jeong Lee, Las Cruces HS, Las Cruces
Jeongmin Lee, Las Cruces HS, Las Cruces
Michelle Montanez, Las Cruces HS, Las Cruces
Elizabeth Montoya, Las Cruces HS, Las Cruces
William Myers, Las Cruces HS, Las Cruces
Stefany Urena, Las Cruces HS, Las Cruces
Ashley Allred, Onate HS, Las Cruces
Zachary Morgan, Onate HS, Las Cruces
David Rodriguez, Onate HS, Las Cruces

West Region

Jared Pino, Crownpoint HS, Crownpoint
Tydrin Wauneka, Crownpoint HS, Crownpoint
Loisse Ledres, Gallup HS, Gallup
Nicole Atencio, Miyamura HS, Gallup
William Hubbard, Miyamura HS, Gallup
Maryann Notah, Miyamura HS, Gallup
Patric Soce, Miyamura HS, Gallup
Brittany Arviso, Navajo Preparatory High School, Farmington
Quisheima Brown, Navajo Preparatory High School, Farmington
Jolene Fernandez, Navajo Preparatory High School, Farmington
Cody Tso, Navajo Preparatory High School, Farmington

MESA Students in Action...

All photos by Rick Cole



Natalie Yonemoto
nex+Gen Academy
10th Grade



Asher Guengerich
Socorro High School
11th Grade



Kiley Reil
Taylor Middle School
8th Grade



Darius Gallegos
Mesa Vista High School
9th Grade



William Gaudioso
Magdalena High School
11th Grade



Angel Saenz
Ernie Pyle
Middle School
8th Grade
“Outstanding
EPMS MESA Stu-
dent for 2014-2015”

VISION

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