



NM MESA, Inc.  
1015 Tijeras Ave NW; Ste. 200  
Albuquerque, NM 8710  
Phone (505) 366-2500  
Fax (505) 366-2529

# Press Release

Contact: Anita Gonzales  
Phone: 505-718-9517  
Email: [anita@nmmesa.org](mailto:anita@nmmesa.org)

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## **NM MESA Partners with Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories to Host Virtual Student Competition**

October 30, 2020 - NM MESA, Sandia National Laboratories, and Los Alamos National Laboratory are partnering to host the Towering Above Competition where students in middle and high school will be tasked with creating a paper tower using only construction paper, scissors, and scotch tape.

"Students will have the opportunity to use their skills and creativity as they design and create their one of a kind, hands-on project all while having fun", said Anita Gonzales, NM MESA's Statewide Program Coordinator.

The competition will be open to all students in grades 6-12 across New Mexico's public schools. Students will be judged on categories that include the Tallest, School Spirit, Most Creative and Best Technical Design.

Employees from both Laboratories will serve as judges for the competition. Prizes will include electronic gift cards with a value of up to \$75.

*Additional information can be found on the NM MESA website: [www.nmmesa.org](http://www.nmmesa.org).*

*NM MESA's mission is to "Empower and motivate New Mexico's culturally diverse students with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) enrichment."*

*NM MESA is a year-round, multi-year, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) initiative that works with school districts and higher education institutions to improve NM student STEM performance; increase NM college STEM performance; increase NM college STEM enrollment; provide hands-on STEM competitions.*