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Press Release

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Towering Above Competition Winners Announced

December 11, 2020 - NM MESA, Sandia National Laboratories, and Los Alamos National Laboratory partnered to host the Towering Above Competition to challenge students in middle and high school to create a paper tower using only construction paper, scissors, and scotch tape. Students from around New Mexico submitted towers in the categories of Tallest Tower, School Spirit, Most Creative and Best Technical Design.

Judges from Sandia and Los Alamos reviewed student entries and interviewed the finalists virtually. Winners were announced on December 11 and will receive electronic gift cards.

“The judges appreciated the student’s efforts to design and build towers in their homes using limited supplies, and were impressed with the student’s designs” said Anita Gonzales, NM MESA’s Statewide Program Coordinator.

Students appreciated the opportunity to participate. Kendra Griego, Belen High School received an award and thanked the organizers, saying “I am beyond thrilled to compete. Building the tower gave me something positive to focus on during these not-so-positive times. I miss the challenge of in-person learning, and this tower building project got me off the computer and allowed me to get hands-on. For that, I am grateful.”

Competition Winners:

Student	School	Place	Division	Category
Marley Ramon	Albuquerque High School	1	High School	Most Creative
Estevan Gallegos	Belen High School	2	High School	Most Creative
Kendra Griego	Belen High School	3	High School	Most Creative
Aaron Philip	Los Alamos High School	1	High School	Most Technical
Emily Armijo	Belen High School	HM	High School	Most Technical
Ashlyn Chavez	Belen High School	1	High School	School Spirit

Angelina Aldridge	Cibola High School	2	High School	School Spirit
Aaron Madrid	Cibola High School	3	High School	School Spirit
Ryland Ferran	Los Alamos High School	1	High School	Tallest Tower
Konstantin Nelson	Los Alamos High School	2	High School	Tallest Tower
Kaia Allen	Albuquerque High School	3	High School	Tallest Tower
Jayra Guerrero	Deming Intermediate	1	Middle School	Most Creative
Eden Jensen	Amy Biehl Community School	2	Middle School	Most Creative
Alivia Hayes	John F. Kennedy Middle School	3	Middle School	Most Creative
Gabriel Gallegos	Carlos F Vigil Middle School	1	Middle School	Tallest Tower
William Briske	Zia Middle School	2	Middle School	Tallest Tower
Gavin Brent	Chamisa Elementary	3	Middle School	Tallest Tower
Ezekiel Sanchez	Red Mountain Middle School	HM	Middle School	Tallest Tower
Sophia Zhang	Albuquerque School of Excellence	1	Middle School	Most Technical
Adyanee Lopez	Deming Intermediate	1	Middle School	School Spirit
Kalila Eppers	Portales Junior High School	2	Middle School	School Spirit
Noah Trujillo	School of Dreams Academy	3	Middle School	School Spirit
Aimerie Pena	CC Snell Middle School	HM	Middle School	School Spirit

Additional information, including winning tower photos, can be found on the NM MESA website: 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.