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Press Release

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Towering Above Competition Winners Announced

December 16, 2021 - NM MESA and Sandia National Laboratories 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.

The competition is the 2nd Annual Events and judges from Sandia reviewed student entries and interviewed the finalists virtually. Winners were announced on December 16 and will receive awards for their performance.

“Our students continue to excel and have shown that creativity in design can be done with the simplest of materials and some innovation” said Anita Gonzales, NM MESA’s Deputy Director.

Students appreciated the opportunity to participate. Ashlyn Chavez from Belen High School received an award and said that “I learned about Engineering and weight distribution. I liked how I was encouraged to be creative and use ‘outside of the box’ ideas to create my tower”.

Competition Winners:

Name (First)	Name (Last)	School (full name)	Place	Division Level	Entry Category
Ashlyn	Chavez	Belen High School	1st	High	Most Creative
Mariana	Gomez	West Mesa High School	2nd	High	Most Creative
Adrian	Samudio Olivas	Bernalillo High School	1st	High	School Spirit
Lorenzo	Garcia	Bernalillo High School	1st	High	Tallest Tower
Lonicio	Macias	Roswell High School	1st	High	Technical Design
Kalila	Eppers	Portales Junior High School	1st	Middle	Most Creative
Jackson	Wolfe	Mountain View Middle School Alamogordo	2nd	Middle	Most Creative

Trace	Kotter	Mountain View Middle School Alamogordo	3rd	Middle	Most Creative
Joanna	Hernandez	John F Kennedy Middle School	Co-1st	Middle	School Spirit
Tandi	Foreman	Portales Jr. High School	Co-1st	Middle	School Spirit
Devany	Lockwood	Monte del Sol Charter School	1st	Middle	Tallest Tower
Aeson	Carling	Portales Junior High School	2nd	Middle	Tallest Tower

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.