

On behalf of the New Mexico State University  
Board of Regents, Chancellor, President, alumni, faculty and staff,  
we welcome you to the  
**129<sup>th</sup> Commencement**



*Graduate Ceremony*

6 p.m. (MDT) Friday, December 10, 2021 at Pan American Center

*Undergraduate Ceremony*

9 a.m. (MDT) Saturday, December 11, 2021 at Pan American Center



# New Mexico State University

A land-grant university and NASA Space Grant College, New Mexico State University thrives in education, research and public service. Nestled between the Organ Mountains and the Mesilla Valley, the 900-acre campus is home to approximately 14,000 graduate and undergraduate students from across the country and around the world. Since its founding in 1888, NMSU has served a diverse population of talented students and has charmed many visitors with its vast campus beauty.

The William Conroy Honors College at NMSU is the first of its kind in the state of New Mexico. Guided by experienced master professors, undergraduate students from all majors have the opportunity to immerse themselves in challenging courses, participate in innovative research, compete for prestigious awards and graduate with honors status.

The NMSU system prepares graduates by delivering hands-on experiences at the university's five campuses located in Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, Alamogordo, Grants and Carlsbad. In addition to educating students, NMSU strives to advance research and deliver information to all New Mexicans through efforts at cooperative extension offices in all 33 counties, and 12 agricultural science centers across the state.

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Ranked as a **TOP-TIER UNIVERSITY**, U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges for 2021

**A BEST GLOBAL UNIVERSITY**, U.S. News & World Report Best Global Universities 2021 rankings

**A TOP 100** institution for Hispanics, The Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine, October 2020 issue

**TOP 25** animation and visual effects program in the nation, "Animation Career Review" 2020

**NMSU ENGINEERING RANKS 12TH** among U.S. Best Value Engineering Schools 2019

Best colleges for **ONLINE** learning, Best Value Schools 2021

**#22 IN THE COUNTRY**, four-year public institutions category for enrolling and graduating women in computer science, Chronicle of Higher Education 2019



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## **Board of Regents**

**Ammu Devasthali**  
Chair  
Las Cruces, N.M.

**Dina Chacón-Reitzel**  
Vice Chair  
Albuquerque, N.M.

**Arsenio Romero**  
Secretary / Treasurer  
Las Cruces, N.M.

**Christopher Saucedo**  
Member  
Hobbs, N.M.

**Neal Bitsie**  
Member  
Albuquerque, N.M.

## **Ex Officio Member**

**The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
Governor of New Mexico  
Los Alamos, N.M.

## **Advisory Members**

**Julia Parra**  
Chair, Faculty Senate  
Las Cruces, N.M.

**Joseph Almaguer**  
Chair, Employee Council  
Las Cruces, N.M.

**Matthew Madrid**  
President, ASNMSU  
Las Cruces, N.M.

# Order of Graduate Ceremony

Friday, December 10, 2021

**Prelude and Platform Party Processional**

**Presentation of Colors**

NMSU Army and Air Force ROTC

**“The Star-Spangled Banner,” Francis Scott Key**

**Invocation**

Brother John Sandstrom

*Holy Family American National Catholic Church*

**Presentation of Degree Candidates**

Dr. Dan E. Arvizu

*Chancellor*

**Conferring of Degrees and Diplomas**

Dr. Dan E. Arvizu

*Chancellor*

**Presentation of Degrees**

Doctoral and Master Degree Candidates

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences;

College of Arts and Sciences; College of Business; College of Engineering;

College of Health, Education and Social Transformation

**Recessional**

*Aggie Fight Song*

*Pomp and Circumstance*

# Order of Undergraduate Ceremony

Saturday, December 11, 2021

## Prelude and Platform Party Processional

### Presentation of Colors

NMSU Army and Air Force ROTC

“The Star-Spangled Banner,” Francis Scott Key

### Invocation

Brother John Sandstrom

*Holy Family American National Catholic Church*

### Presentation of Degree Candidates

Dr. John D. Floros

*President*

### Conferring of Degrees and Diplomas

Dr. John D. Floros

*President*

### Presentation of Degrees

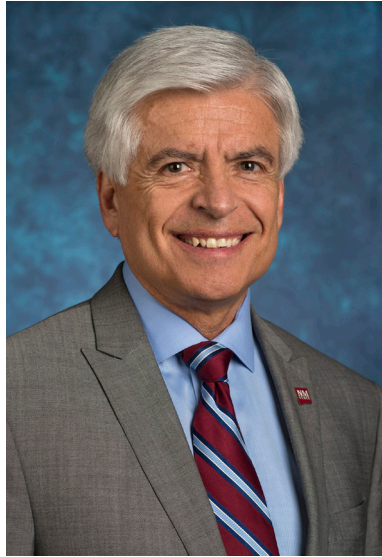
Bachelor Degree Candidates

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences;  
College of Arts and Sciences; College of Business; College of Engineering;  
College of Health, Education and Social Transformation

### Recessional

*Aggie Fight Song*

*Pomp and Circumstance*



Congratulations to our graduates as well as to their families and friends!

New Mexico State University's commencement ceremony is always a joyous time. Our students have come from around the region and around the globe to pursue higher education. They have spent countless hours in classrooms and labs. They have stayed up way too late working on class projects, and woken up way too early for exams. Now, all of their hard work has paid off and they have earned their degrees.

Traditionally, we have viewed universities as a place where lofty ideas emanate, where these are debated, reshaped and used as a foundation for knowledge creation, inspiration, motivation and competitiveness. At NMSU, we challenge the status quo. We cultivate the art of the possible and we establish a culture of higher expectations. We also inspire and fuel a greater entrepreneurial spirit and mindset and celebrate it. From every corner of NMSU, we know we must be a catalyst for change!

At NMSU, we deeply care about student success and meeting our students, traditional and non-traditional, where they are. It is our critical responsibility to educate students for a rewarding and financially enabling career. We focus on excellence in research and scholarship to solve national and global grand challenges. We live diversity and inclusion every day among our students and faculty. And, we care about our vital role in economic development locally and beyond. These traits are what differentiate us!

The graduates we celebrate today are well on their way to achieving their true potential for themselves, their families and their communities. They will face an exciting and inspiring future as professionals, decision-makers and leaders of tomorrow. I ask all of you to be bold in meeting these challenges. Be fearless. And, let's shape the future together. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan E. Arvizu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan E. Arvizu, Ph.D.  
Chancellor  
BE BOLD. Shape the future.





Welcome to our Fall 2021 commencement exercise!

I am pleased to give a big Aggie greeting to our graduates and their friends and family as we gather virtually from all around the world and in-person.

Graduates, you have earned the right to pause for a moment and reflect on your achievements. Your NMSU education is part of the foundation for the next part of your life. Some parts of that foundation you had when you arrived at NMSU and are inherent in who you are: your values, passion, creativity and persistence. These traits have helped you earn a place in today's ceremony and will benefit you in the future.

Graduation is an important milestone, and the credentials you have earned at New Mexico State University indicate that you have mastered a level of knowledge in a discipline. Your knowledge will open up opportunities in your field of study. Even more importantly, it demonstrates that you can succeed. We live in an age marked by a seemingly unbounded expansion of knowledge. The best way to prepare for such an environment is to learn, keep learning, and never stop learning.

The next steps may seem uncertain, but I encourage every one of you to harness your potential to realize your dreams. You have the ability to make profound contributions to our community and our world. You have the power to shape your future and the future of those around you. I offer you my sincere congratulations!

Be bold, be kind, and be safe. Go Aggies!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. Floros". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John D. Floros, Ph.D.

President

BE BOLD. Shape the future.

## Honors

To be eligible for institutional honors, the student must have earned at least 60 semester credits for a four-year degree or at least 45 semester credits for a two-year degree in computable grades while in residence at this university. Honors courses graded "S" will be counted as a part of the minimum of 60 credits. Effective Fall 1975, the number of students at graduation, by college, receiving degrees with HONORS in any one year shall not exceed 15 percent; the number receiving HIGH HONORS shall not exceed 1.5 percent; and the number receiving HIGHEST HONORS shall not exceed one person, except in the case of a tie. The students receiving degrees with MERITORIOUS in any one year shall not exceed 15 percent.

Honors designations for Fall Candidates is based on work taken prior to Fall 2021.

C.S. – Crimson Scholar: has completed a minimum of seventy-five credits in the Crimson Scholar Program and has maintained a GPA of 3.5 or better.

H.C.P. – Honors Certificate Program: has completed at least two interdisciplinary honors seminars.

U.H. – University Honors: has completed 18 hours of Honors College work, including a thesis, and has maintained a GPA between 3.5-3.749.

D.H. – Distinction in University Honors: has completed 18 hours of Honors College work, including a thesis, and has maintained a GPA of 3.75 or better.

## Program Notations

\* Students who have completed work for degrees in Summer 2021 are identified with an asterisk.

The Commencement Ceremony is a symbolic event; the awarding of degrees will be based on the certification of degree requirements by the academic colleges.

While every effort is made to ensure that this Commencement Program is accurate and up to date, some information may have changed between the printing date and the actual ceremony. The appearance or absence of any name in the program does not constitute recognition or denial of completion of degree requirements nor the conferring of honors. The University apologizes for any errors or omissions.

The program as a ceremonial publication and is not an official record of graduates.

# Candidates for Degrees

## GRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Luis Cifuentes, Ph.D., Dean

## COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Melakeneh Gelet Gedefaw (Water Science and Management)  
*Evaluation of Rangeland Degradation in Response to Climate Change Using Remote Sensing to Support New Mexico's Food-Energy-Water Systems*  
Faculty Advisor: Hatim Geli

Michael D. Hatch (Water Science and Management)  
*Sustainability Management of Short-Lived Freshwater Fish in Human-Altered Ecosystems*  
Faculty Advisor: David Cowley

Esmail Mokarighahroodi (Plant and Environmental Science)  
*A Machine Learning Approach for Prediction of Rangeland Above Ground Production and Crop Water Use*  
Faculty Advisor: David Dubois

Curt Pierce (Plant and Environmental Science)  
*Deficit Irrigation and Partial Root-zone Drying in Field-grown Pecan: Leaf Gas Exchange, Tree Water Status and Nut Production Factors*  
Faculty Advisor: Richard Heerema

Vesh Raj Thapa\* (Plant and Environmental Science)  
*Cover Crops Affect Soil Health and Crop Production Under Limited-Irrigation Winter Wheat-Sorghum-Fallow*  
Faculty Advisor: Rajan Ghimire

Ulises Alejandro Sanchez Sandoval (Animal Science)  
*Horn Fly (Diptera: Muscidae) Impacts on Cattle Behavioral and Nutritional Responses of Beef Cattle and the Influence of Common Feed Additives on Fly Development*  
Faculty Advisor: Sergio Soto-Navarro

### MASTER OF AGRICULTURE

Taylor Evaughana Hayes\*

Ashley D'Ann Lama-Mendoza

Marshal D. Wilson

### MASTER OF ARTS

Nicole Jeanne Heckathorn  
*Agricultural Extension Education*  
Sydney Leigh Hollingsworth\*  
*Agricultural Extension Education*  
Rebekah Ann Horton  
*Agricultural Extension Education*

Raul A Perea  
*Agricultural Extension Education*  
Justine Jessica Powell  
*Agricultural Extension Education*

Jennifer Delk Shafer  
*Agricultural Extension Education*  
Jenna Elaine Short  
*Agricultural Extension Education*

### MASTER OF SCIENCE

Maria Guadalupe Alvarez Zavala  
*Horticulture*  
Collin Anderson  
*Animal Science*  
Benjamin Waring Armstrong  
*Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology*  
Katherine Marie Arnold  
*Agricultural Biology*  
Pratima Bhandari\*  
*Agricultural Economics*

Bianca Birkenstock  
*Animal Science*  
Brittney N. Blakely  
*Agricultural Biology*  
Jessica K. Buskirk  
*Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology*  
Maria Katherine Chavez  
*Animal Science*  
Chance Cook  
*Range Science*

Micayla Lynn Crimmins  
*Animal Science*  
Rebekah Dudley  
*Family and Consumer Sciences*  
Danielle Duni  
*Range Science*  
*Water Science and Management*  
Itzel Tzitzilli Duran  
*Animal Science*  
Zachary J. Farley  
*Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology*

Ana Cristina Garcia Escalante  
*Family and Consumer Sciences*

Bryana Rose Getchell  
*Agricultural Economics*

Taylor Marie Hansen  
*Range Science*

Michael M. Hitzelberger\*  
*Water Science and Management*

Mikaela Hoellrich\*  
*Plant and Environmental Science*

Raghda Ibrahim Kailany  
*Family and Consumer Sciences*

Makane Lloyd Mason\*  
*Agricultural Biology*

Fiona Elizabeth McKibben  
*Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology*

Savannah Meadors\*  
*Range Science*

James Miazga  
*Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology*

Jessee Lynn Montoya  
*Range Science*

Seyed Shahabeddin Nourbakhsh  
*Plant and Environmental Science*

Autumn Joy Pearson\*  
*Water Science and Management*

Darien Shaygne Pruitt\*  
*Plant and Environmental Science*

Reid A. Riley  
*Water Science and Management*

Allison J. Salas\*  
*Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology*

Taylor Ever Sanchez  
*Range Science*

Asmaa Shakir  
*Family and Consumer Sciences*

Ivan Tellez  
*Agricultural Biology*

Tyler Turk\*  
*Range Science*

Haley Ruth Vincze  
*Agricultural Biology*

Michael Ray Whiting\*  
*Plant and Environmental Science*

Angela Lee Yemma  
*Range Science*

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Mohammad Abdullah-Al-Mamun\* (Physics)  
*Effects of Large Refractive Index Gradient Features in the Lower Atmosphere on Propagation of Highly Directional Beams*  
Faculty Advisor: David Voelz

SK Imran Ali (Molecular Biology)  
*Role of DNA-PKcs in CTCF Mediated DNA Damage Repair, Transcription Regulation and R-loop Homeostasis*  
Faculty Advisor: Amanda Ashley

Rigo A. Carrasco (Physics)  
*Molecular Beam Epitaxy and Optical Performance in Group IV and Group III-V Semiconductors for Photonic Applications*  
Faculty Advisor: Stefan Zollner

Emma Katherine Dahl (Astronomy)  
*Color and Structure of Jupiter's Uppermost Cloud Deck During the Juno Era*  
Faculty Advisor: Nancy Chanover

Sumanjari Das (Biology)  
*Sliafractionia Leguminicola Toxin Transport, Temporal Expression and Secretion*  
Faculty Advisor: Rebecca Creamer

Carola Emminger (Physics)  
*Ellipsometry of Semiconductors Under Thermal and Laser Excitation*  
Faculty Advisor: Stefan Zollner

Ramanujam Geeyarpuram Nadathur (Molecular Biology)  
*Regulation of Swainsonine Production and Water Stress in Alternaria*  
Faculty Advisor: Rebecca Creamer

Alexandra Elizabeth Gollither\* (Chemistry)  
*Accessing the Cannabinoid Scaffold for Enantiomeric Cannabin Derivative Synthesis and Developing Enamide Forming Reactions for Progress Towards the Total Synthesis of Laingolide A*  
Faculty Advisor: William Maio

Qixu Gong (Computer Science)  
*Processing Skyline Path Queries over Multi-dimensional Transportation Networks*  
Faculty Advisor: Huiping Cao

Shitu Fawaz Jimoh\* (Mathematics)  
*Leibniz Cohomology with Adjoint Coefficients*  
Faculty Advisor: Gerald Lodder

Rashmi Ramanand Joshi (Molecular Biology)  
*Assessing the Roles of DNA Ligase IV, NEK4 and BRD4 in Cellular Proliferation of Triple Negative Breast Cancer Cells*  
Faculty Advisor: Amanda Ashley

Saleem Abdullah Masadeh (Computer Science)  
*Investigating the YouTube Adpocalypse and Augmenting the Use Experience to Address Transparency and Systemic Biases*  
Faculty Advisor: William Hamilton

Ady Berenice Melendez Molina\* (Chemistry)  
*Study of Zinc ABC Transporter Components in Bacteria*  
Faculty Advisor: Erik Yukl

Thanh Hai Nguyen\* (Computer Science)  
*An ASP-Based Automatic Web Services Composition Framework and its Applications*  
Faculty Advisor: Son Tran

Binod Paudel\* (Physics)  
*Epitaxial Strain, Electron Field, and Domains Controlled Functionality Modulations in Complex Oxide Heterostructures*  
Faculty Advisor: Heinrich Nakotte

Nuwanjula Sandamali Samarasingha Arachchige (Physics)  
*Optical Characterization of Compound Semiconductor Materials Using Spectroscopic Ellipsometry*  
Faculty Advisor: Stefan Zollner

Mahsa Shiranifaradonbeh (Molecular Biology)  
*Biophysical Characterization of DNAJB1-PRKACA and Investigation of its Molecular Interactions in Fibrolamellar Hepatocellular Carcinoma*  
Faculty Advisor: Barbara Lyons

Thujitha Thuraiamy\* (Biology)  
*Identification, Characterization, and Gene Expression Analysis of Thioester-Containing Proteins (TEPs), and the Host Response to Environmentally Evoked Bacteria in the Squid Euprymna Scolopes*  
Faculty Advisor: Maria Castillo

## MASTER OF APPLIED GEOGRAPHY

Scott DeVaul Miller

## MASTER OF ARTS

Amie Sharie Amiotte  
*Experimental Psychology*

Jett D. Barela  
*Communication Studies*

James Tyler Boyd  
*Government*

Lia Alexandra Castano  
*Spanish*

Karly Corman\*  
*English*

Cary Charles Culbertson\*  
*Government*

Luke Evan Devine\*  
*History*

Braeden Dimitroff\*  
*Anthropology*

Graciela Gálvez  
*Spanish*

Rain Ann Thomas Gass  
*Anthropology*

Ingrid Dayana Gonzalez Ochoa  
*Spanish*

Luis Armando Gonzalez Lavin\*  
*English*

Theodore Hahn H  
*History*

Ifham Hassan Zareer  
*Anthropology*

Christine Therese Henze  
*Spanish*

Kyle M. Jensen\*  
*Experimental Psychology*

Hannah Marie Jesberger  
*Spanish*

Katrina Marie Ling  
*Experimental Psychology*

Adriana Martinez Acero  
*Spanish*

Araceli Alejandra Martinez Gomez  
*Spanish*

Sandra Ivonne Ordonez  
*Spanish*

Yemisi Oroyinyin  
*Communication Studies*

Carina Fraga Ott  
*Spanish*

Kimberly Pacheco\*  
*English*

Michael Pereira  
*Spanish*

Kelebogile Phalaagae  
*English*

Melinda Marie Porta-Marshall  
*Spanish*

Abigail Rodriguez  
*Experimental Psychology*

Valerie K. Simone  
*Anthropology*

Rebecca Skulsky\*  
*Experimental Psychology*

Angeline E. Sunday\*  
*Government*

Fredrick Edward Swenson\*  
*Government*

Jesse Van Maanen\*  
*Anthropology*

Jacqueline Lee Vela  
*Communication Studies*

Rose Vidal  
*Anthropology*

Eva Karen Videla  
*Communication Studies*

Nicholas Howard Voges\*  
*English*

Leora Ellen Whiteaker  
*Experimental Psychology*

## MASTER OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Leisdaly Gabriela Chrisley\*  
Xiaoli Dong  
Taylor Lynn Hogan

Dawnielle Jo Manzanares  
Gaby Martinez-Torres  
Dana Ofelia Mireles

Viridiana Porras  
Gloria Stacy Ruiz\*

## MASTER OF FINE ARTS

Maggie Day  
*Fine Arts*  
Alex Lane Nipper  
*Fine Arts*

Tonya Rae Suther  
*Creative Writing*  
Donovan Noelle Swann  
*Fine Arts*

Hannah Marie Treder  
*Fine Arts*

## MASTER OF MUSIC

Flor De la Garza\*

Aaron Michael Lewis

## MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Kohlby Winfield McInnes\*

Leslie Ann Sanchez\*

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

Hasan Mohammad-A Al-Qudah\*  
*Computer Science*  
Maryam Ashraf\*  
*Biology*

Benjamin Boakye  
*Mathematics*  
Matthew Sheldon Bundas  
*Computer Science*

Steven Yau Him Chan  
*Computer Science*  
Redwan UI Haq Choyon\*  
*Computer Science*

Jeremy Andrew Emmett\*  
*Astronomy*  
Khandker Mushfiqul Islam  
*Computer Science*  
Kiel Jones  
*Chemistry*  
Ashish Kodam  
*Computer Science*  
Vijay Kumar Kodari  
*Computer Science*  
Sanuj Kumar  
*Computer Science*  
Anju Kunnumpurathu James  
*Computer Science*

Jun Yong Lee  
*Computer Science*  
Xuye Luo\*  
*Computer Science*  
Joshua Tyler Mann  
*Biology*  
Santana Justine Mendoza  
*Biology*  
Peter Oteng Mensah  
*Mathematics*  
Carolyn Nichole Mullins  
*Geology*  
Thuy Thanh Pham\*  
*Chemistry*

Hasan Cavit Sezer\*  
*Mathematics*  
Parampreet Kaur Sodhi  
*Biology*  
Rubin Man Tamrakar\*  
*Biology*  
Sri Krishna Sreedhar Tirthala  
*Computer Science*  
George J. Torres, Jr.  
*Computer Science*  
Anna Elizabeth VanDusen  
*Geology*  
Karissa Vermillion  
*Geology*

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Lina Xu (Business Administration)  
*Two Essays on the Effects of Behavioral Pricing on  
Consumer Decision-Making*  
Faculty Advisor: Mihai Niculescu

### DOCTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Kyle Ross Eagar (Economic Development)  
*Oil Price Volatility and Economic Development*  
Faculty Advisor: Christopher Erickson

### MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

Deanna Estella Alvarez  
David Michael Ash, Jr.  
Olivia Aurelia Bertrand  
Wendy Denisse Bissuett-Villegas  
Emily April Diaz  
Karina Gomez

Sarah Elizabeth Jenkins  
Ting Liao  
Marla Z. Martinez  
Annalise Veronica Mercy McGuire -Fender  
David Alfonso Navarro

Luyen Thi Phuong Nguyen  
Diego Ryan Padilla  
Wesley Simon Proctor  
Mia Faith Salome  
Kaleb Joseph Steen

### MASTER OF ARTS

Sokynah Nabeel Alhilal\*  
*Economics*  
Julianna Olivia Baca  
*Economics*  
Kenza Benomar\*  
*Economics*

James Mark Gbeda\*  
*Economics*  
Pascualito M. Maestas  
*Economics*

Gretta Sainsbury  
*Economics*  
Philip Bannister Simpson  
*Economics*

### MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Carlos Angelo Acosta\*  
Christopher James Andrews\*  
Kristina Isabel Armendariz\*  
Amber Stephanie Baca\*  
Stephanie Banks\*  
Nancy Gomez Barron\*  
Colton John Beaty\*  
Roxana Candia-Rojas\*  
Ayo Carpenter\*  
Alyssa Lynne Chisholm\*

Cali Lane Crismore\*  
Carlos Ivan Cuesta Albornoz\*  
Kevin Michael Davis\*  
Abigail Lynn Denham\*  
Kelby Arlene Dickey\*  
Karysta Brianna Donisthorpe\*  
Allysandra Marisa Duran\*  
Adam El Hamlaoui\*  
Casey Marie English\*  
Marissa Josephine Erickson\*

Thomas D. Esparza IV\*  
Shelby Elizabeth Fletcher\*  
Jaimmah Blairre Flores\*  
Pedro Franco\*  
Janki Ganjawala\*  
Christopher Joseph Garcia\*  
David Garcia\*  
Guadalupe Barraza Gaytan\*  
Colby Lee Gibson\*  
Jessi Jo Lynn Gonzales\*

Adrianna Marchelle Marlee Henderson\*  
DeseRay Lizabeth Holmes\*  
Megan Christie Johnson\*  
Troy Jones\*  
Andrea Diane Jones Wittig\*  
Natalie Marie Kane\*  
Karen Kinemuchi\*  
Patrick Leach\*  
Brian Edward Leonard\*  
William Ryan Lisak\*  
Austin Lopez\*  
Luke Luna\*  
Naomi Luna\*  
Harken Maguire\*  
Anna Marie Marsh\*  
Matthew Weldon Martin  
Camille DeAnna Martinez\*

Troy Martinez\*  
Luis A. Mata\*  
Brenda Griselda Medina\*  
Jeanelle Nichole Medina\*  
Makenzie Moffitt\*  
Jessica Denise Montoya Ortega\*  
Jack Patrick Mulholland\*  
Sophie Louise Newlove\*  
Flor Maria Ortiz\*  
Adriana Palomino\*  
Kenneth Gabriel Paz\*  
Richard Lawrence Poythress\*  
Ana Luisa Prieto\*  
Samson Joseph Provencio\*  
Katya Quevedo  
Rajeshwar Naresh Raja\*  
Andrea Danee Read\*

Gabriel Rivas\*  
Steven Joseph Romero\*  
Jose Luis Rosales\*  
Jerald Joshua Salmon\*  
Gabrielle Leigh Shelsea\*  
Haley Louise Spoeneman\*  
Nana-Ayisha Sule\*  
Jonathan Francisco Sutor\*  
Ernest Phillip Tapia III\*  
Jose Inez Trevizo\*  
Kayla Lynn Trujillo\*  
Jerry Lee Tuttle\*  
Joshua John Valdez\*  
Trevor D. Waring\*  
Frankie White\*  
Megan Elizabeth Wohlberg\*

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

Shivam Chawla  
*Applied Statistics*  
Rosa I. Gonzalez\*  
*Applied Statistics*  
Farjana Jasmine  
*Applied Statistics*

Diana Jepakoch Kemboi  
*Applied Statistics*  
Bernard Afotey Mensah\*  
*Applied Statistics*

Syedmohammadhossein Mousavi  
*Applied Statistics*  
Rahila Naseer  
*Applied Statistics*

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Yehia Moustafa Arafa (Engineering)  
*Performance Modeling and Prediction of Contemporary GPU Architectures*  
Faculty Advisor: Abdel-Hameed Badawy

Alireza Bandegi\* (Engineering)  
*Fabrication of Ion Gels by Self-Assembly of Pluronic/Ionic Liquid/Monomer Mixture*  
Faculty Advisor: Reza Foudazi

Wenjuan Bian\* (Engineering)  
*3D Engineered Electrode for Intermediate Temperature Solid Oxide Fuel Cell*  
Faculty Advisor: Meng Zhou

Samantha Marie Ceballes\* (Engineering)  
*Insights on the Nonlocal Modeling and Input Uncertainty on the Dynamics of Nanobeams*  
Faculty Advisor: Abdessattar Abdelkefi

Lin Chen (Engineering)  
*Innovative Nanotechnologies for Enhanced Solar Thermal Desalination.*  
Faculty Advisor: Pei Xu

Xiaoxiao Cheng\* (Engineering)  
*Occurrence and Proliferation of Antibiotic Resistance and Virulence in Conventional Wastewater Treatment Processes and a Mixotrophic Algal System*  
Faculty Advisor: Yanyan Zhang

Sajia Afrin Ema (Engineering)  
*A Decision Support System for the Surgery Rescheduling Problem*  
Faculty Advisor: Hansuk Sohn

Lei Hu\* (Engineering)  
*Pretreatments and Toxicity Assessments of Produced Water from the Permian Basin*  
Faculty Advisor: Yanyan Zhang

Ahmed Mejbek Kanaan\* (Engineering)  
*Thermodynamic Aspects of Urban Landscaping*  
Faculty Advisor: Igor Sevostianov

Esmail Mokarighahroodi (Engineering)  
*Improving Water Conservation Through Thermal Imaging Technology in Irrigated Pecan Orchards, Civil Engineering*  
Faculty Advisor: Zohrab Samani

Glen Tyler Throneberry (Engineering)  
*Enhancements of Drones' Capabilities Through Flight Dynamics and Uncertainty Quantification*  
Faculty Advisor: Abdessattar Abdelkefi

Thomas A Underwood (Engineering)  
*Three Developments Related to Imaging through Atmospheric Turbulence*  
Faculty Advisor: David Voelz

Ronghuan Xu (Engineering)  
*Seismic Responses of Buried Pipelines to Multiple Supported Random Ground Excitations*  
Faculty Advisor: Ruinian Jiang

Sina Zamen (Engineering)  
*Phase-Space Domain: A Path to the Next Generation of Nonlinear Ultrasound Testing*  
Faculty Advisor: Ehsan Dehghan Niri

Ryan Thomas Zowada\* (Engineering)  
*Development of Porous Hydrogels by Templating Approach as a Solution to Water Scarcity*  
Faculty Advisor: Reza Foudazi

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Carlos Daniel Silva Rojas  
Tao Weng\*

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Adam Robert Meyers

Javier Adrian Salas Chavira

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Issa Tou

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Kaitlyn Bertram  
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Aric Cole Bitton

Steven Sun Liaw  
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Edirisooriya

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Anthony Michael DeRocchis  
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Amin Sarihi  
Robert Selje II  
Zena Lisa Stevenson  
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Jacob Michael Wilson  
Randall James Woodall

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Wijayalath Kodige Nimasha Lakshani  
Abeykoon

Herath Mudiyanseelage Ishani Pradeepa  
Kulasekara



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Viet Bach Le  
Abner Luna Garcia\*

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# COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Kathryn Cothorn Achen\* (Curriculum and Instruction)  
*The Transition from Emergency Remote Teaching and Pandemic Pedagogy to Quality Online Course Design and Learning: A Faculty Perspective*  
Faculty Advisor: David Rutledge

Mohammad Saleh Al-younes (Curriculum and Instruction)  
*Preparation and Implementation of Mathematical Discourse in a Tertiary Online Developmental Mathematics Course: A Case Study*  
Faculty Advisor: Christopher Engledowl

Elizabeth C. Apodaca (Educational Administration)  
*Cultural Taxation and Intersectionality: A Phenomenological Examination of Service for Tenured Latina Faculty in Departments of Educational Leadership.*  
Faculty Advisor: Rene Guillaume

Jonathan Bailon-Valdez (Educational Administration)  
*Being Out in a Closeted World: A Qualitative Study Exploring the Experiences of Queer Mexican-American PK-12 Educational Leaders from the Paso Del Norte Borderlands*  
Faculty Advisor: Pamela Gray

Javzandulam Batsaikhan (Curriculum and Instruction)  
*Formal Preschool Educational Programs as a Choice of Herder Parents in Mongolia: A Qualitative Case Study of Taviul Children*  
Faculty Advisor: Jeanette Haynes

Whitney M. Castor (Curriculum and Instruction)  
*Teachers' Perceptions and Expectations of Students: A phenomenological Study on Bringing Awareness to Teachers' Biases Through the Identification of One's Cycle of Socialization*  
Faculty Advisor: Richard Marlatt

Edgardo Barrientos Castro (Educational Administration)  
*Deconstructing the Linchpin Role: A Qualitative Study of the Role of Principal Supervisors in a Culturally Responsive and Socially Just Educational Leadership Setting in One of the School Districts in the Southwest Region of the U.S.*  
Faculty Advisor: Azadeh Osanloo

Marco Antonio Cervantes (Educational Administration)  
*Examining the Factors that Impact the Utilization of School-Based Mental Health Services for Mexican American Adolescents from a Rural, Borderlands Community during the Time of COVID-19: A Quantitative Study*  
Faculty Advisor: Azadeh Osanloo

Suparna Chatterjee (Curriculum and Instruction)  
*A Phenomenological Study on the Experience of Higher Education Faculty in the Transition from Traditional Teaching to Online Teaching in Science Courses*  
Faculty Advisor: Julia Parra

Ghazal Fakhteh Yavari (Interdisciplinary Program)  
*Lived Experiences of Special Education Teachers Teaching Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Fully Online Environment During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Phenomenological Study*  
Faculty Advisor: Yvonne Moreno

Ryan Elliott Flinn\* (Counseling and Educational Psychology)  
*Testing the Progressive Model of Help-Seeker Self-Stigma*  
Faculty Advisor: Tracie Hitter

Donna Marie Giaquinto (Educational Administration)  
*Veteran Teachers' Perceptions of the Educational Reform Acts of the 21st Century for Latinola Students in New Mexico: Veteran Teacher Survey & Linear Regression Prediction Models*  
Faculty Advisor: Kristin Kew

Daniel Alejandro Gonzalez (Curriculum and Instruction)  
*Identities and Practices of a Latinx Visual Arts Community of Practice*  
Faculty Advisor: Josefina Carmona

Kimberly Marie Knox (Special Education)  
*Special Education Social Worker's Experiences Working in Inclusive Environments*  
Faculty Advisor: Loretta Salas

Jessica Lopez-Harder\* (Counseling and Educational Psychology)  
*Pláticas~testimonios of Resilience of Transgender and Gender Diverse Latinx Individuals in the U.S.-Mexico Borderland Region*  
Faculty Advisor: Eve Adams

Brett L. Opelt\* (Counseling and Educational Psychology)  
*Military Student Veterans' Mental Health Help-Seeking*  
Faculty Advisor: Eve Adams

Henrietta Ann Romero (Educational Administration)  
*Don't Just Get Them in the Door Graduate Them: A Phenomenological Approach on Retention and Persistence of Low-Income, First-Year Students at LCC During the Covid-19 Pandemic*  
Faculty Advisor: Henrietta Pichon

Magdalena Saiz (Educational Administration)  
*Growing Through It: A Critical Qualitative Study on Latinas Claiming Educational Leadership in PK-12 School District*  
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Claudia Sanford\* (Curriculum and Instruction)  
*Intercultural Competence Awareness and Acquisition Through Foreign Language Education: A Mixed Methods Study in An Institution of Higher Education Introductory Language and Culture Course*  
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Sara Colleen Schnoor (Educational Administration)  
*Principal Leadership and Restorative Justice Practices: An Arts-Based Phenomenological Multi-Site Case Study*  
Faculty Advisor: Pamela Gray

Jackie Beth Shilcutt\* (Kinesiology)  
*An Activist Approach to Teaching Ballet in a University Setting: Moving Beyond an Authoritarian Pedagogy*  
Faculty Advisor: Kimberly Oliver

Danielle Kubasko Sullivan (Curriculum and Instruction)  
*Pedagogy of Self-Disclosure: A Critical Phenomenology of Native American Student Intention in Disclosure of Trauma in Writing Assignments*  
Faculty Advisor: Richard Marlatt

Tania Valente\* (Counseling and Educational Psychology)  
*Understanding the Development of Sex Positivity in Psychologists*  
Faculty Advisor: Tracie Hitter

Cynthia R Wise (Educational Administration)  
*The Optics of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at a Hispanic - Serving Institution: A Qualitative Case Study in the Borderlands*  
Faculty Advisor: Kristin Kew

## DOCTORATE OF NURSING PRACTICE

Joelen M. Leszczynski\*  
*Developing and Integrating a Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program: An Opportunity to Reduce Health Care Disparities*  
Faculty Advisor: Stephanie Lynch

Yesenia Esmeralda Ochoa\*  
*Implementation of a Pictorial Asthma Action Plan (PAAP) in a Special Population*  
Faculty Advisor: Linda Summers

Christine Yvonne Sambrano  
*Missed Opportunities: Identifying and Reducing the Gaps of HV Vaccinations*  
Faculty Advisor: Jacquelyn Williams

Relindis Ngum Taku\*  
*Analyzing the Sustainability of Telemedicine in an Urban Primary Care Clinic*  
Faculty Advisor: Stephanie Lynch

## SPECIALIST IN EDUCATION

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*School Psychology*

Paloma Yazmin Nava  
*School Psychology*

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*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

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Kyle Meagan Alcachupas  
*Education*

Desiree Rochelle Alvis  
*Education*

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*Sociology*

Michael David Ash  
*Education*

Jeremiah Arthur Avila\*  
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Rene Michelle Balderrama\*  
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*Special Education*

Michelle Katelyn Belone  
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Kathleen Berry\*  
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Alexandra C. Bustillos  
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Crystal Campos  
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Kimberlyn Carovillano  
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Trina Racquel Castillo  
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Fatima Rose Chavez  
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*Education*

Daisy Cortez  
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Maribel De Santiago  
*Education*

Miniminyha DeMund\*  
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Amanda LaRae Dunlap  
*Educational Administration*

Dawna Dupre  
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*Education*  
Leticia Pena\*  
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*Education*  
Dallas Deann Pompeo  
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*Education*  
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*Education*  
Raquel Tapia  
*Education*  
Amanda Gayle Tucker\*  
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Sylvia Wilneshia Turman  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*  
Rose Urquidi  
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Vivian Dominique Urueta  
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*Education*  
Kelly Weese  
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*Sociology*  
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*Sociology*  
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*Sociology*

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Yoko G. Gonzalez Almaguer\*  
Carolyn Marie Ireland\*

Sarah Marie Stotlar\*

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Sharmistha Roy  
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*Clinical Psychopharmacology*  
Matthew Cooper  
*Clinical Psychopharmacology*  
Savannah Joy Geske  
*Clinical Psychopharmacology*

Amanda O'neil MacKinnon  
*Clinical Psychopharmacology*  
Brian Joseph Page  
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Brenda Jean Payne  
*Clinical Psychopharmacology*

Connie Lynn Petersen  
*Clinical Psychopharmacology*  
LuAnne Stokes  
*Clinical Psychopharmacology*  
Kayt Whitebird Orange  
*Clinical Psychopharmacology*

## MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Ana Maria Lopez

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Valeria Ceja*	Lorena Elizabeth Luna* (Honors)	Patricia Alejandra Torres
Kelt Quinn Cooper (C.S.)	Heana Anayi Martinez (C.S.)	Araceli Vazquez (C.S.)
Amy Michelle Dame (Honors, C.S.)	Veronica Antonia Melendez (C.S.)	Valerie E. Velasquez*
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Emilee Faith Glenn	Adriana Ortiz*	Angel Ray Ybarra
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#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HOTEL, RESTAURANT AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

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# COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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Kyle William Johnson

Lourdes Maribel Lopez  
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Kelly-Jon Alexis Acosta  
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Keven Aguilar  
Priscilla Alanis (C.S.)  
Savannah Marie Alarcon  
Isabella Alyse-Marie Alcazar (Honors, C.S., D.H.)  
Davina Teresa Aldaz  
Michelle Amador (C.S.)  
Avianna Leonor Amancio (Honors, C.S.)  
Samantha D. S. Ashida-Schwisow (C.S.)  
Ana Nohemi Baca (C.S.)  
Charlotte Rose Bellis  
Jennifer Nicole Bencomo (C.S., H.C.P.)  
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Abigail Erin Boynton  
Reina Elizabeth Bravo\*  
Bryan Bustillos  
Danielle Marie Caesar  
Kashka Tyree Calvin  
Olga Lidia Camacho (C.S.)  
Andrea Leslie Camunez (Highest Honors, C.S.)  
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Cassandra Carrillo (Honors, C.S.)  
Vanessa Castro (C.S.)  
Arelly Chairez  
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Madlyn Marie Chavez  
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Jacqueline Cornejo\* (Honors)  
Brett Dalton Cornwell (C.S.)  
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Victoria Lavenial Cox (Honors, C.S., H.C.P.)  
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Stacey Maudie Gordon  
Isaiah Granado (Honors)  
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Yesenia Gutierrez (C.S.)  
Marianna Alheli Gutierrez Navarro  
Odeth Guzman  
Jolene Hester Haller  
Abraham Isaiah Hernandez  
Jesus R. Hernandez\*  
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Tracy Michelle Hernandez  
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Mackenzie Ann Isom (Honors, C.S.)  
Taylor Nicole Jackson  
Mayra Daniela Janzen (Honors, C.S.)  
Alicia Yesenia Jaquez (C.S.)  
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Yvette Montana Juarez (C.S.)  
Benjamin Kilgore  
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Christine Marie Kissling  
Laura Audrianna Laemmler  
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Gloria Lefevre  
Wray A. Lewis (C.S.)  
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Andrea Jimena Marañón Laguna (Honors, C.S., D.H.)  
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Trent Colton Nickell (C.S.)  
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Latha Sankaran (C.S.)  
Reagan Ann Schriener  
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Wendell Erwin Singleton, Jr.  
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Vivian Alyssa Soto-Ramos (C.S.)  
McKensi An Inez Spears (Honors, C.S., D.H.)  
Carson Paine Springer  
Allyah Maria Taylor  
Raul Alejandro Teran  
Jordyn Rose Terrazas (Honors, D.H.)  
David B. Torres  
Lovaey Amory Torres\*  
Dylan Paige Van Hooshier\* (Honors)  
Eryn Deion Vasquez (C.S.)  
Eveline Vazquez-Delgado (C.S.)  
Dayana Patricia Villanueva  
Maddison Renee Warpula  
Julian David Welsh\*  
Tajuana Williams (C.S., H.C.P.)  
Ashton R. Womble (C.S.)  
Ashley Nicole Yarborough (Honors, C.S., H.C.P.)

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Anita Beth Slavens (C.S.)  
Annie Marie Smith (Honors, C.S., H.C.P.)  
Jessica Kyer Stelly  
Ashley V. Sullivan (C.S.)  
Kaitlyn Marlayne Taylor\* (Honors, C.S.)  
McKenna Shea Taylor\* (Honors, C.S.)  
Kaitlin Nicole Thomas-Volkov\* (Honors, C.S.)  
Cody Wayne Thornburg (C.S., D.H.)  
Kalli L. Tidwell\*  
Erica Turaki (Honors, C.S.)  
Kirsten Alexis Udero (C.S.)  
Jasmine Alexia Urquidi (Honors, C.S.)  
Pilar Villanueva\* (Honors, C.S.)  
Taylor McKenna Walker (High Honors, C.S.,  
H.C.P.)  
Kari Angelina Wood (C.S.)

## BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Salvatore Daniel Caruso\*  
Aniececa Renee Gomez\*

AnaMaria Gutierrez\* (D.H.)  
Samantha Renay Melendez

## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

### DEGREE RECIPIENTS WITH HIGHEST HONORS

Ekaterina Kostrova Moore  
*College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences*

Alyssa Marie Covarrubia  
*College of Engineering*

Bernabe J. Jaramillo  
*College of Arts and Sciences*

Andrea Leslie Camunez  
*College of Health, Education and Social Transformation*

Brianna Rae Reynaud  
*College of Business*

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OUTSTANDING SENIOR/GRADUATE AWARD

*The New Mexico State University Alumni Association Outstanding Graduate Award is the highest award the NMSU Alumni Association bestows upon a graduating student. Each Outstanding Graduate is selected through a competitive process that considers their academic leadership and service to the University and the community.*

Kathryn Ann Petty  
*College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences*

Michaela Michele Bradley  
*College of Health, Education and Social Transformation*

Teresa Fuentes  
*College of Arts and Sciences*

Maria Guadalupe Alvarez Zavala  
*Graduate School, Master's*

Brianna Rae Reynaud  
*College of Business*

Suparna Chatterjee  
*Graduate School, Ph.D.*

Alyssa Marie Covarrubia  
*College of Engineering*

### COMMISSIONS: SECOND LIEUTENANT UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

*The following students participated in, and completed, the rigorous Air Force ROTC program of instruction during their attendance at NMSU. In addition to their graduation today, they received their commission as Second Lieutenants in the Air Force.*

Sylvester Gonzalez

### COMMISSIONS: SECOND LIEUTENANT UNITED STATES ARMY

*The following students participated in, and completed, the rigorous Army ROTC program of instruction during their attendance at NMSU. In addition to their graduation today, they received their commission as Second Lieutenants in either the Active Army, Army Reserve, or National Guard. All of these Aggie graduates will serve our Army proudly in their designated branch and future duty assignments.*

Eric Cisneros  
Fernando Rivera

Priscilla Aileen Saucedo  
Kelsie Skye White

**COMMENCEMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**SPECIAL THANKS TO UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE**

Adam Cavotta  
*Board of Regents*

Mathew Madrid  
*ASNMSU*

Chris Heyser  
*Special Events*

Michael Kaczmarek  
*Marketing and Communications*

Collin King  
*NMSU Bookstore*

Baylee Banks  
*Marketing and Communications*

Gabrielle Martinez  
*University Student Records*

Tammy Menges  
*University Student Records*

Melody Munson-McGee  
*President's Office*

Kori Plank  
*University Student Records*

Rocky Puentes  
*Facilities and Services*

Seneca Reyna  
*Alumni Relations*

Ricky Ruiz  
*NMSU Bookstore*

Frank Sage  
*ICT Classroom Technology*

Dacia Sedillo  
*University Student Records*

Renay Scott  
*Student Success and Enrollment Management*

Michael Smith  
*Special Events*

# The Aggie Fight Song

Aggies, Oh Aggies

The hills send back the cry

We're here to do or die

Aggies, Oh Aggies

We'll win this game or know the reason why

And when we win this game

We'll buy a keg of booze

And drink it to the Aggies

'Till we wobble in our shoes

A-G-G-I-E-S!

Aggies, Aggies, Go Aggies

Aggies, Oh Aggies

The hills send back the cry

We're here to do or die

Aggies, Oh Aggies

We'll win this game or know the reason why!



**BE BOLD. Shape the Future.**

# FIRST DESTINATION SURVEY

Congratulations on obtaining your degree! You have just completed an exciting milestone and we couldn't be more proud of your achievements.

We understand that securing the future you want may take longer than it would have without the COVID-19 pandemic. While this is an interesting time, NMSU would like for you to complete one last assignment to tell us more about your post-graduation plans. This information is important in assessing the programs and services that help our students and in providing vital information to enhance the learning experience for the next generation.

The First Destination Survey is available now through January 10, 2022. A unique link was sent to your NMSU email.

For questions regarding the survey, contact NMSU Student Success Center at 575-646-3136.

NMSU career planning services are also available to you as an alum. We offer graduates the following amenities:

- Handshake (online career management and job posting system)
- Career advising and job search assistance
- Resume and cover letter reviews
- Interview prep
- Access to career fairs





**ALWAYS AN AGGIE**

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!

**YOU ARE JOINING A LEGACY OF OVER 145,000 ALUMNI  
AND WE WANT TO STAY CONNECTED!**

As a graduate, you join a vast global network of other NMSU Alumni filled with knowledge, expertise and passion. We welcome you to our alumni family.

While you may leave our beautiful campus, know that NMSU will always be here for you. We will always be interested in hearing from you and staying connected. Your success is truly our success.

We welcome you as new members of our NMSU Alumni network and we are proud that you will Always be an Aggie!

Keep your contact information up-to-date, share your life-after-NMSU stories or let us know if you would like to host a networking event in your new town. We want to be of service to you.



**SIGN UP TODAY AT  
ALWAYSANAGGIE.COM**



**NMSUALUMNI.ORG**



**@NMSUAlumFriends**



