

NEW MEXICO TECH

COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025



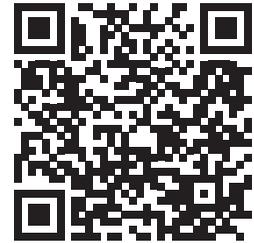
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CLASS OF 2025

THE FUTURE IS YOURS

Stay connected and watch your
classmates grow, thrive, & flourish!

Starting May 17, scan the QR code to
download commencement photos.



Use this hashtag to share your photos
on Instagram, Facebook, & LinkedIn:

#NMTGrad2025

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@NewMexicoTech

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Regent Chair

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Regent

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Linda DeVeaux
Faculty Senate Chair

Aly El-Osery
Dean of Graduate Studies

Corey Leclerc
Dean of Engineering

Steve Simpson
Dean of Arts & Sciences

AGENDA

Processional

Presentation of the Colors, Gonfalons, and Mace

University-Dr. Linda Deveaux
Arts & Sciences-Dr. Steve Simpson
Engineering-Dr. Corey LeClerc
Mace-Dr. Bill Stone

Welcome

President Amouzegar

National Anthem

Valerie Thomas

Introductions

President Amouzegar

President's Address

President Amouzegar

Presentation of Distinguished Teacher Award

Provost Michael Jackson

Introduction of Student Speaker

Vice President David Greene

Student Speaker

Bishop Cervantes

Graduate Awards

Dean Aly El Osery

Undergraduate Award

Provost Michael Jackson

Presentation of Undergraduate Degrees

Provost Michael Jackson

Presentation of Graduate Degrees – Master's

Provost Michael Jackson

Presentation of Graduate Degrees – Ph.D.

Provost Michael Jackson

Alumni Pinning Ceremony

Director Sandi Lucero -
Alumni Affairs

Closing Remarks

President Amouzegar

Recessional



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AWARDS

Distinguished Teaching Award

The Distinguished Teaching Award is presented each year to a faculty member based on recommendations and nominations from students, alumni, and other faculty. The winner receives a plaque and a \$2,500 cash award.

Langmuir Award

The Langmuir Award for Excellence in Research is given for an outstanding scientific research paper by any student or graduate of New Mexico Tech. The paper must have been submitted to or published by a recognized journal during the preceding year. The recipient is selected by the Faculty Senate's Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee. The award is named in honor of Irving Langmuir (Nobel Laureate, chemistry, 1932) who conducted extensive research with Tech staff. The award consists of a plaque and a \$400 cash award.

Founders' Award

The Founders' Award was created to honor the persons responsible for establishing the New Mexico School of Mines in Socorro in 1889, especially J.J. Baca and Ethan Eaton. The award is presented to the recipient of an advanced degree who has made an outstanding contribution to Tech through scholarship, research, and involvement in campus affairs. The recipient is chosen by faculty nomination and Faculty Senate election. The award consists of a plaque, and an \$800 cash award.

Cramer Awards

These awards were established to honor Tom Cramer, an engineer and a member of the Tech Board of Regents for 26 years. These awards are given to the top two graduating seniors in engineering who rank highest in scholarship. The awards consist of a citation and a \$400 cash award. The recipients are chosen by the Faculty Senate upon recommendation of the engineering faculty.

Brown Award

The Brown Award is named in honor of Mr. C.T. Brown, a mining executive and great benefactor of NMT and of Socorro who served on the Tech Board of Regents from 1898 to 1914 and from 1917 to 1922. It is presented to the member of the graduating class who, in the opinion of the faculty, ranks highest in scholarship, conduct, and leadership. The award consists of a plaque and a prize of \$1,000.

PRESENTATION OF DEGREES

Undergraduates

Dr. Matthew Johnson, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Hispanic Studies

Graduates

Dr. Aly El-Osery, Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor of Electrical Engineering

ABOUT NMT & THE CLASS OF 2025

New Mexico Tech was founded in 1889 as the New Mexico School of Mines to support the mining industry and bolster New Mexico's economy. It opened in 1893 with one building, two professors, and seven students. The school incrementally expanded over the eras and changed its name to New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in 1951. Fall 2024 enrollment totaled 987 degree-seeking undergraduates and 486 degree-seeking graduate students. The Class of 2025 joins an illustrious group of 11,000+ alumni leaders and innovators in science, technology, engineering, entrepreneurship, and mathematics (STE²M).

For over 135 years, NMT has remained at the forefront of education, innovation, and applied research, offering degrees from associate to doctoral level. It also houses numerous pioneering research centers. With expertise sought by national laboratories, federal agencies, the White House, and industry leaders, NMT's research spans diverse fields such as hydrology, astrophysics, explosives engineering, atmospheric physics, and cybersecurity.

AFTER THE CEREMONY

Immediately after the commencement ceremony, please celebrate with us right here on the grounds of the rodeo/sports complex. There will be food, beverages, SWAG to browse, and more.

We encourage graduates and their guests to reflect on this incredible milestone and capture memories that will last a lifetime..

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

* Cum Laude
Cumulative GPA of
3.00 to 3.49

** Magna Cum Laude
Cumulative GPA of
3.50 to 3.74

*** Summa Cum Laude
Cumulative GPA of
3.75 to 4.00

Associate of General Studies

Catherine Lisa-Renee
Maneri***
Leif Mendenhall

Bachelor of General Studies

Paul Richard Bohling
Troy Edward Vigil
Travis DeVere Wickard

Bachelor of Arts in Business

Anthony Steven Baca
Koby Rene Kwiecinski*
Levina Lynn Silas

Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry

Alivia Reese Abernathy**

Bachelor of Arts in Earth Science

Roheel H Pashtoon

Bachelor of Arts in Earth Science

Martin B. Charley*

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Alivia Reese Abernathy**
Ashley Nichole Bradshaw***

*(Minors in Biomedical
Engineering
and Explosives Engineering)*

Riley R Burns
Vanessa Lianette Adelina
Cordova**

Natasha Schaal Davis
Zachary Alan Dekay**

Alayna Hope Duran*
Ella Blue Eleven***

Samantha Renee Goldberg
Brooklin Autumn Hensley*
(Minor in Secondary Education)

Halie Dee-ann Locke*
(Minor in Chemistry)

Kayla Elizabeth Mackowski***
*(Minors in Chemistry and
Psychology)*

Takayla Dynette Montoya**
Jayden Elliott Peters*
Annika Marie Vestrand***

Bachelor of Science in Biology and Psychology

Hanna Elisabet Sikora*

Bachelor of Science in Biology with Environmental Science Option

Eva Rose Mueller***
Sonya Marie Torres

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with Biology Option & Biochemical Engineering Concentration

Sarah Angelina Stanley**

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with Biology Option & Bioinformatics Engineering Concentration

Olivia K Caffrey**
(Minor in Hispanic Studies)

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with Chemistry Option & Biochemical Engineering Concentration

Mason Keith Broten***
(Minor in Chemistry)

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with Chemistry Option & Biomechanical Engineering Concentration

Brenda Muniz*

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with Chemistry Option & Biomaterials Engineering Concentration

Arianna Capri Petitto***
(Minor in Chemistry)

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with Cognitive Neuroscience Option & Biomaterials Engineering Concentration

Rui Ping Rivera Wheaton**

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with Psychology & Neuroscience Option & Biomaterials Engineering Concentration

Elizabeth Caroline Enos*
(Minor in Psychology)

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with Psychology & Neuroscience Option & Biomechanical Engineering Concentration

Lucia Danielle Coca*

Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering

Arianna G Albers***
Jesus Oscar Barajas
(Minor in Chemistry)
Caeleigh Ruthann Boddy*
(Minor in Explosives Engineering)

Quintin M Campbell
Norma Johnston*
Alexander Wayne Kern*
Ciara Leah Mike*

Carlos Alberto Neri Soto***
Sofia Nocua Moreno**
James Lawrence Renteria
Joshua Eli Vance***
Isabella Rose Wichman***

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Zachary A Collier***
Kainoa John Correa*
Jordan Lynn McMillan*
Kieran Nico Moss*
Jaqueline Regalado**

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

Elijah Job Collins*
Allison Elise Powell**
Isaiah Ernesto Probst**
Alfredo Romero**
Corey Danielle Sanchez*

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Antonio Martin Arant***
(Minor in History)
David Angelo Chamberlain**
Quentin Drake*
Melissa Lauren Fusco***
(Minor in Computer Engineering)
Aedyn Jay Gonzales*
Dean A Gonzales
Lily Laura Houghteling***
(Minor in Hispanic Studies)
Ambrosia Storm Ingoglia*
Abram Santiago Iverson*
Jason Paul Kern***
Brian Kessel***
Shawn Robert Kingman*
Caleb James Krcil**
Destiny Ann Kuehn*
Jonah Standfier Latner*
Kassidy Lance Maberry***
Maximus Odin Meadowcroft*
(Minor in Music)
Thomas G Merl*
Christopher Thomas Montoya**
Aidan Paulson Parral***
Ethan Isaiah Peterson***
(Minor in Mathematics)
Tommy Pham*
Cameron Michael Rhea*
(Minor in Cybersecurity)
Anthony L Salcido*
Ariana Michelle Sanchez**
Isaiah Sandoval
Cameron R Savage*
(Minor in Philosophy)
Natalie Katie Schneider**
(Minors in Mathematics and Data Science)
Andrew Isaac Smith***
(Minor in Data Science)
Brady Travis Spencer*
Maximilian A Strack**
Otto W Strack*
Gabriel Q Turner*
Hongrong Zhong**
(Minor in Psychology)

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Management of Technology

Savanna Amber Middaugh*

Bachelor of Science in Earth Science

Christopher P Castillo*
Michael Macy FitsEmons*
Jimmy Robert Swift
Trevor Barrett Wargo

Bachelor of Science in Earth Science with Geology Option

Sharon Belem Minnix*

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

Nicolas Eric Ali**
Luis Arce**
Harrison Edward Chase*
Alyssa A Daniel-Peterson*
(Minor in Optical Science & Engineering)
Alexander Michael Heusser***
Delsin Francis Jaramillo
Patrick Michael Klarkowski
Tenzin L Lungtok*
Gabriel Pete Munoz***
(Minor in Computer Engineering)
Russell B Nakai**
Jacob Curtis Nikolai***
Chris Pauli*
(Minor in Optical Science & Engineering)
Nikolas Paumier***
Jorge Quiroga***
(Minors in Hispanic Studies and Optical Science & Engineering)
Alexander Kenerson Rea*
(Minor in Optical Science & Engineering)
Mariah Consuelo Rocha*
Zakrye D Toliver
(Minors in History and Optical Science & Engineering)
Steven John Williams*

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering

Carlos Angel Arias*
Kirk Avery Baloun***
Luke J Dierks*
Haley Hanson
Samantha Renae Thompson*

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with Biology Option

Natalia Mariana Gallegos
Venessa Denise Maestas*

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

Tri Maxwell Blankley
Dominic Shane D'Onofrio**
Brandon Richard Hunt
(Minor in Computer Science)
Jena Anne Peterson***
(Minor in History)

Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Sciences

Ethan Isaiah Peterson***
Cody L Sonnenfeld*
(Minor in Biology)

Bachelor of Science in Management

Daisy Marlyn Palacios*
(Minor in Mechanical Engineering)

Bachelor of Science in Materials Engineering

Annika Eileen Bauman***
Gabriel V Beltran*
Brianna Kay Boyd*
Anthony Edward Lavelle**
Rachel Hope Phillips
Claire E Putelli**
Jack Douglas White

Bachelor of Science in Materials Engineering with Metallurgical Engineering Option

Ethan Micah Hopwood***

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

John Matthew Darrah*
(Minor in Secondary Education)
Benjamin Clarke Harris
(Minor in Data Science)
Abram Santiago Iverson*
Michael Alexander Liebel***
Giulia Maria Luebben***
(Minor in Data Science)
Michael Joseph Millard***
(Minor in Data Science)
Dylan Lee Nafus***
(Minor in Data Science)
Grace Mackey O'Leary**
(Minor in Secondary Education)
Otto W Strack*
Annika Marie Vestrand***

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics

Roddy Vb Mayes**

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Kyle Randall Allen***
Justin W Barker*
(Minor in Biology)
Hunter Alan Belcher*
Karl Jacob Berni
Ethan Michael Brook*
Carson Taylor Bukowski*
Skyler Michael Bunning***
Ivan Jose Castaneda
Kailani Akaidebah Charlie*
Emily Denise Chavez**
(Minor in Hispanic Studies)
Gabriel Gage Chavez***
Caleb Ryan Crosswhite
Trevor Sterling Dodson**
(Minor in History)
Chase Alexander Dunaway***
Jason Michael Dwonzyk*
Richard Castillio Fabian
William Fawcett*
Hayden Thomas Fenner***
Isabella Noelani Gatto**
Joaquin Genaro Gonzales
Sean D Goodyear***
Haileigh Jewel Grubbs**
Andrew Lee Hubbard
Robert Stephen Ivil***
(Minor in Explosives Engineering)
Ethan Montgomery Jenkins*
Ethan Ryan Jones***
Palmer Vaughn Kasprovicz***
Dorothy Fae Lindula***
Dustin Phillip Littletree*

Marcos Manuel Lopez
Michael Richard Lucero
Kyle Wayne Mace
Zoey Quinn Mancuso de Lopez***
Julian Antonio Martinez***
Santiago Adolfo Mendez*
Jaidevin Lee Messenger*
Logan Levi Moore*
Mackenzie Lee Moreland***
Matthew Arend Mulder***
Jacob C Nikolai***
Margarita Sandoval
Sarah Feliz Skrien*
Nicholas Sanjay Steinkraus**
Griffin P Stidham*
Matthew Lee Thomason**
Michael Jeffery Warden*
Wyatt James Whitt**
Arthur Wietharn***

Bachelor of Science in Mineral Engineering

Peter Thomas Lyons***

Bachelor of Science in Petroleum & Natural Gas Engineering

Godsway Akpabli***
Yaa Saah Apenteng***
Zaid Esteban Cazares*
Jasmine Breeze Detrick*
Hazel Ann Galanis Woodward
Omar Hernandez-Borja
Desmond Ofori Koranteng***
Thieu Tan**
Hoa Huy Vo*
Joshua John Worley*

Bachelor of Science in Physics

Mallory G Connell*
Jonathan Cameron Moore
Samuel R Moya*
(Minor in Mathematics)
Jacob C Sandusky*
Nathaniel Johnathon Serda*
(Minors in Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics)

Bachelor of Science in Physics and Mathematics

Tyrus Kevin Karmesin***
(Minor in Computer Science)

Bachelor of Science in Physics with Astrophysics Option

Alexander Glenn Canales***
Cameron Adelaide Caruso*
Zachary Goodrich
Christian H Hensley***
Michael Alexander Liebel***
Ryan Paul Zander*
(Minors in Mathematics and Chemistry)

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Vanessa Lianette Adelina Cordova**
Skylar Ember Grace***
Florence A Kubic
Macie BriAnne Niles**
(Minor in Biology)
Shelby Renee Peterson**
Deven V Raman**
(Minor in Chemistry)

Bachelor of Science in Technical Communication

Aurelio Anthony Almeda
(Minor in Mechanical Engineering)
Hadrian Tiberius Keith*

MASTER'S DEGREES

Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering with Specialization in Surface Engineering

Morelia Cuevas

Master of Engineering Management

Melinda Guzman Ramirez
Sergio Martinez-Nunez
Anne Elizabeth Valdez

Master of Engineering in Materials Engineering

Pierce Mitchell Alexander
Logan Elijah Blake
Daniel Joseph Crecco

Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering

Trinell Jammarr Hatcher
Summer L Little

Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Explosives Engineering

Jacob Jones Adams
Giovanni Gabaldon
Adam Riley Murrell
Raul Reyes

Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Fluid & Thermal Sciences

Joshua Michael Smith

Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Mechatronics Systems & Robotics

Nathan Andrew Carpenter

Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Solid Mechanics

Ryan Flynn

Master of Science in Biology

Jeremy Scott Giannone
Nathaniel Elliot Jobe
Damilola Mary Odumade
Aaron Jordan Ortiz

Andre J Ortiz
Cassandra Helena Skaar
Bianca Wanamaker

Master of Science in Chemical Engineering

James D Angelos
Norma Johnston*

Master of Science in Chemical Engineering with Specialization in Surface Engineering

Sohail Ahmad Ayazi
Arrika Nancy Duran
Nicole Anne Penners
Xuan Thi Linh Pham

Master of Science in Chemistry

Quinn U Abfalterer
Victor Zackariah Schiller
Nusrat Yeasmin

Master of Science in Civil & Environmental Engineering with Specialization in Civil Engineering

Nicholas A Hutt
Alfredo Romero
Adam Michael Wilcox

Master of Science in Civil & Environmental Engineering with Specialization in Environmental Engineering

Mercy Ike Ajigah
John Ryan Himes

Master of Science in Computer Science

Wesley M Camphouse
Sandeep Challa
Showvik Das
Tanjim Fatima
Md Rakibul Islam
Preston M Kite
Johndenmyr Mendoza
Sai Sarath Munnangi
Javier Reyna

Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Cybersecurity

Emily Kesler
Thomas G Merl

Master of Science in Electrical Engineering

Juan Manuel Altamirano
Gonzalez
Kingsley Amankwah-Ampofo
Alan Ulises Becerra
Zia Dushan Dhawan
Patrick Aaron Duane
Eryn Nicole Jaramillo
Adrian E Maez
Wellington William
Woodward

Master of Science in Geochemistry

Jakob Robert Newcomer
Eric L Ruggles

Master of Science in Hydrology

Joseph Robert Hoberg
Joseph Michael Gregory
Kuljis
Thomas Edward Kyritz
Lily Aster Newton

Master of Science in Materials Engineering

Lukman Abubakar
Javier Ambrose
Robert Borrego
Kayleigh Rae Cameron
Matthew H Durfee
Janin Carol Brenda Essary
Md Mahmudul Hasan
Hannah Morgan-Smith Myers
Tanvir Rahman
Alex J Valdez

Master of Science in Mathematics with Specialization in Analysis

Saunder Calvin Robert Jones

Master of Science in Mathematics with Specialization in Industrial Mathematics

Bishop Martin Cervantes
Md. Zakaria Hossain

MASTER'S DEGREES

Master of Science in Mathematics with Specialization in Operations Research & Statistics

Kakoli Khatun
Yesar Ahmed Oshan
Sharmin Sultana

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Mario A Escarcega

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Explosives Engineering

Stephen Richard Albritton
David Alonso Avalos Violante
Jessica Cooke
Maria N D'Orazio
Jett Christopher Emms
Therese Lujan
Maria Juliana Ortiz
Autumn Noel Weber

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Mechatronics Systems & Robotics

Dana Dulcinea Figueroa
Fahad Mannan
John Anthony Racette
Justin Ruthstrom

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Solid Mechanics

Samuel James Baca
DaJae Ernestine Doral
Ryan Mier

Master of Science in Mineral Engineering

Devlon R. Shaver

Master of Science in Mineral Engineering with Specialization in Geotechnical Engineering & Geomechanical Engineering

Wilson Adzimah
Gael Estefany Araujo
Huaman
Abraham Armah
Maria C Beltran Marquez
Jairo Alonso Montano
Atencio
Valentina Robledo
Harriet Naakai Tetteh

Master of Science in Mineral Engineering with Specialization in Mineral Exploration

Megan Nicole Badonie
Isabella Cerchiaro Sanchez

Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering

Anthony Damoah Adjei
Ameyaw
Paa Kwesi Ntaako Boison
Thien Nhat Dong
Hao Tuan Duong
Kien Ngoc Hoang
Nathaniel Nimo Yeboah

Master of Science in Physics

Jessica George
Emma Stover

Master of Science in Public Engagement, Design, & Communication

Emmanuel Kodua
Acheampong
Amelia Pond
Valerie Arias Thomas
Carroll Johanna Voelkel

Master of Science for Teachers

Rosan Aboyme-Alejo
Mary Catherine Bissell
Maria Elena Chavez
Miranda T Chavez
Denise Marie Chavez-Duran
Rachel Danner
Brendajulissa Diaz
Daniel Ellis-Green
Joseph Frimpong
Kristen Marie Griego
Kathleen Hillock
Timothy Lam
Michelle Marcelle Lopez
Adriana Kamille Martinez
Michelle D. Garcia Martinez
Maria Clodina Villareal Mejia
Padmavathi Munireddy
Angelica Elaine Olivas
Saba Elizabeth Presley
Danny Sleight
Tiffany-Chiffon Thornton
Rita M Vigil
Erica Lynn Zito

Professional Master in Transdisciplinary Cybersecurity

Parker B Alcone
Summer Snow Bronson
Christopher Colin Roy
Nikki A Sparacino

Professional Master in Hydrology

Sophia M Palumbo

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Doctor of Philosophy in Earth & Environmental Science with Dissertation in Geobiology

Mackenzie Brown Best
Zoe Elizabeth Havlena

Doctor of Philosophy in Earth & Environmental Science with Dissertation in Geochemistry

Magdalen Grismer

Doctor of Philosophy in Earth & Environmental Science with Dissertation in Hydrology

Dolan Lucero

Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering with Dissertation in Cyber Electronic Systems

Michelle Rose Sherman

Doctor of Philosophy in Materials Engineering

Eric Joe Galindo

Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics with Dissertation in Applied & Industrial Mathematics

Ogochukwu N Ifeacho

Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering with Dissertation in Intelligent Energetic Systems

Funmilola Helen
Nwokocho

Doctor of Philosophy in Mineral Engineering

Rita M Teal

Doctor of Philosophy in Petroleum Engineering

Samuel Appiah
Acheampong
Raven Goswick
Anthony E Hama
Tonya Sabrina Ross
Justice Sarkodie Kyeremeh

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics with Dissertation in Instrumentation

Jonathan F Dooley

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics with Dissertation in Astrophysics

Megan Yuriko Hein

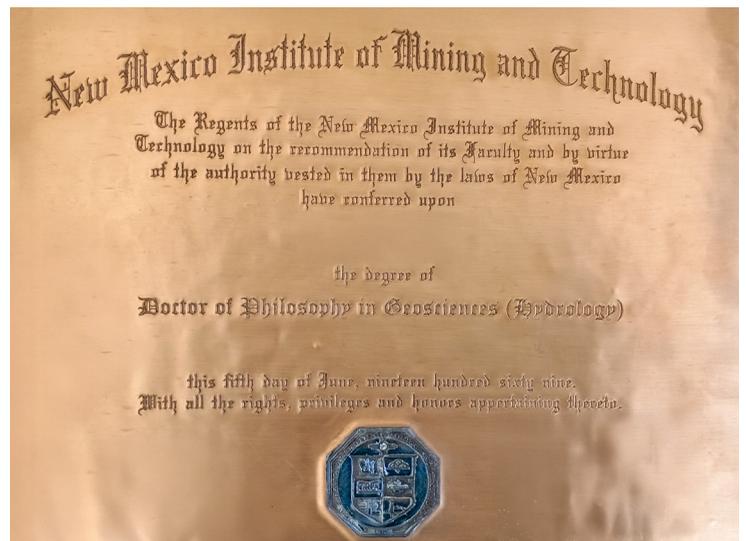
Ph.D. COPPER DIPLOMAS

It is a tradition at NMT that Ph.D. recipients receive, in addition to the paper diploma, a copper diploma that has been explosively formed and etched in inimitable NMT fashion.

The process of creating these copper diplomas starts with a piece of copper that is placed in contact with a laser-etched rubber sheet that has all of the text of the diploma as well as a piece of explosive sheet material.

The detonation forces gases through the laser-etched rubber, etching the diploma's text into the copper with precision. In addition, a piece of aluminum foil is explosively welded and imprinted onto the copper that contains the New Mexico Tech Seal.

This special diploma incorporates the history of Tech's mining, materials, chemistry, physics, and engineering fields in a unique manner. It represents the science, innovation, and creativity that have been NMT hallmarks since our founding in 1889.



CORDS & TASSELS OF RECOGNITION & ACHIEVEMENT

CORDS

Royal Blue Cords

Office of Student Learning
Tutors

Mint Green Cords

Resident Assistants

Red & Gold Braids

Passed the Fundamentals
of Engineering Exam

Navy Blue Cords / Gold, Black, Blue Braids

Sports Club Participants

Black, Red, & White Cords

Esports

Royal Blue & White Cords

Rugby

Purple

New Mexico Cybersecurity
Center of Excellence

Blue, White, & Gold Braids

International Students

Red, White & Blue Braids

Veterans

Royal Blue, Gold

& Red Braids
Student Government
Association (SGA)

Emerald Green Cords

Student Research
Symposium Presenter

Gold & Silver Cords

Tech Scholars

Lime Green Cords

Library Student Employees

Black & Orange Cords

Mayhem Robotics

TASSELS

White

Associates

Orange

Engineering
Undergraduate Level

Yellow

Sciences
Undergraduate Level

Black

Master

Old Gold

Doctorate

ACADEMIC REGALIA: A BRIEF HISTORY AND GUIDE

The tradition of academic regalia—caps, gowns, and hoods—began in European universities during the 12th and 13th centuries, when scholars wore long robes and hoods for warmth and to reflect their clerical roots. Over time, these garments became symbols of scholarship and achievement.

Academic dress in the U.S. took shape in the late 1800s. In 1895, a group of American colleges and universities met at Columbia University and established the Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume. This agreement standardized the style of gowns and hoods and assigned colors to academic fields—many of which are still used today.

WHAT THE COLORS MEAN

The velvet trim on hoods and doctoral gowns indicates the field of study:

- Engineering – Orange
- Science – Golden yellow
- Arts and Letters – White
- Business – Drab (light brown)
- Education – Light blue

The satin lining inside the hood shows the colors of the university conferring the degree.

For example:

- New Mexico Tech – Silver and Gold
- University of New Mexico – Silver gray with a cherry red chevron
- New Mexico State University – Crimson and white

Tassels are usually black, match the discipline's color, or reflect the school's colors.

Doctoral tassels are often gold.

GOWN STYLES & SYMBOLS

- Bachelor's Gown – Pointed sleeves, no trim
- Master's Gown – Long, closed sleeves
- Doctoral Gown – Round, open sleeves, velvet panels down the front, and three velvet bars on each sleeve
- University President's Gown – Similar to doctoral gowns, but with four velvet bars on each sleeve to mark the presidential role

Most gowns are black, though doctoral gowns may also be dark blue. Some fields—like medicine, nursing, or environmental studies—may use colors like green or white for the entire gown.

CORDS & TASSELS: SYMBOLS OF RECOGNITION

Graduation cords and stoles have a long history as well, dating back to the Middle Ages. Today, they often signify academic honors, membership in organizations, community involvement, or family legacy.

UNIVERSITY MACE

Ceremonial occasions such as commencement and convocation begin with the entrance of the University Mace, an ornamental staff bearing distinctive marks. The mace symbolizes the University's governing authority and is present only when the president and Board of Regents are in attendance. It signifies the proceedings have official sanction. The mace dates at least to 17th-century commencements and to the 11th century for other formal functions. NMT's mace—newly made this year—features at the top a three-inch brass medallion, with an antique finish, displaying the University seal. At NMT, one of the longest-serving distinguished faculty members carries it, denoting honor, tradition, and continuity.

UNIVERSITY GONFALON

The university gonfalon is a ceremonial banner that represents the institution's identity and tradition. Displayed prominently at formal academic events like commencement, it features the university's colors, seal, and symbols—most notably, the blue chevron, which represents New Mexico Tech itself. This distinctive element reflects the university's strength, unity, and forward momentum.

ARTS & SCIENCES GONFALON

The Arts & Sciences gonfalon represents the diverse academic disciplines at the heart of a well-rounded education. It features the college's distinctive colors and symbols, including a white chevron that signifies the pursuit of knowledge, creativity, and discovery across the sciences, humanities, and the arts. This banner embodies the college's commitment to fostering critical thinking and intellectual growth.

ENGINEERING GONFALON

The Engineering gonfalon represents the innovative spirit and technical excellence at the core of New Mexico Tech's mission. Bearing a bold orange color traditionally associated with engineering, the gonfalon also features symbols of design, problem-solving, and applied science. It stands as a tribute to the ingenuity, perseverance, and impact of NMT's engineering community.

STUDENT PRESIDENTIAL AMBASSADORS

Leading today's procession are our newly appointed Student Presidential Ambassadors, proudly serving as marshals for this year's commencement. These distinguished students have been selected for their exceptional leadership, academic excellence, and dedication to the New Mexico Tech community. It is a great honor to have them represent their peers in this prestigious role as they guide our graduates, faculty, and administration into this momentous occasion.

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Mineral Engineering Department

Old Timers Award

Peter Lyons

Materials & Metallurgical Engineering Department

Ashman Award

MS: Lukman Abubaker

MS: Robert Borrego

BS: Thomas Hands

Ron Roman Award

Rachel Phillips

Karl Staudhammer Award

Ethan Hopwood

Biology Department

Shortess Award

Mason Broten

Ashley Bradshaw

Cybersecurity Department

Outreach Leadership Award

Brandon Hunt

Physics Department

Brook Prize

Lauren Hall

Jack Nation

Rio Sessions

Petschek Award

Tyrus Karmesin

Eliza Canales

Fallon Award

Emma Stover

Wilkening Award

Zachary Goodrich

Colgate Excellence in Physics Award

David Frothingham

Caitlin Guenther MacQueen

Mariana Baca

Management Department

Bursum Award

Daisy Palacios

Mechanical Engineering Department

Outstanding Design Award

Chase Dunaway

Outstanding Design Clinic Team Leader

James Sandusky

Outstanding Service

Gabriel Chavez

Outstanding Research

Logan Moore

Electrical Engineering Department

EE Outstanding Senior

Alyssa A Daniel-Peterson

Chemical Engineering Department

Outstanding Student

Arianna Albers

Joshua Vance

True Grit

Norma Johnston

James Renteria

Student Service Award

Arianna Albers

Joshua Vance

Civil & Environmental Engineering Department

Paige Ashman Memorial Award

Kirk Baloun

GRADUATING TECH SCHOLARS

A designation awarded to students who have demonstrated superior scholastic competence and conduct.

*Alivia Reese Abernathy
Ashley Nichole Bradshaw
Zachary Alan Dekay
Ella Blue Eleven
Halie Dee-ann Locke
Kayla Elizabeth Mackowski
Annika Marie Vestrand
Eva Rose Mueller
Sarah Angelina Stanley
Mason Keith Broten
Arianna Capri Petitto
Rui Ping Rivera Wheaton
Arianna G. Albers
Joshua Eli Vance
Zachary A. Collier
Kainoa John Correa
Jordan Lynn McMillan
Kieran Nico Moss
Jaqueline Regalado
Isaiah Ernesto Probst
Antonio Martin Arant
David Angelo Chamberlain
Melissa Lauren Fusco
Lily Laura Houghteling
Ambrosia Storm Ingoglia
Abram Santiago Iverson
Jason Paul Kern
Brian Kessel
Shawn Robert Kingman
Caleb James Krcil
Destiny Ann Kuehn
Kassidy Lance Maberry
Maximus Odin Meadowcroft
Christopher Thomas
Montoya*

*Aidan Paulson Parral
Ethan Isaiah Peterson
Cameron Michael Rhea
Ariana Michelle Sanchez
Natalie Katie Schneider
Andrew Isaac Smith
Maximilian A Strack
Hongrong Zhong
Nicolas Eric Ali
Alexander Michael Heusser
Gabriel Pete Munoz
Jacob Curtis Nikolai
Nikolas Paumier
Jorge Quiroga
Kirk Avery Baloun
Dominic Shane D'Onofrio
Jena Anne Peterson
Ethan Isaiah Peterson
Daisy Marlyn Palacios
Annika Eileen Bauman
Claire E Putelli
Ethan Micah Hopwood
Abram Santiago Iverson
Michael Alexander Liebel
Giulia Maria Luebben
Michael Joseph Millard
Dylan Lee Nafus
Grace Mackey O'Leary
Annika Marie Vestrand
Kyle Randall Allen
Skyler Michael Bunning
Emily Denise Chavez
Gabriel Gage Chavez
Trevor Sterling Dodson
Chase Alexander Dunaway*

*Hayden Thomas Fenner
Isabella Noelani Gatto
Sean D Goodyear
Haileigh Jewel Grubbs
Robert Stephen Ivil
Ethan Ryan Jones
Palmer Vaughn Kasprovicz
Dorothy Fae Lindula
Dustin Phillip Littletree
Zoey Quinn Mancuso de
Lopez
Julian Antonio Martinez
Jaidevin Lee Messenger
Mackenzie Lee Moreland
Matthew Arend Mulder
Jacob C. Nikolai
Sarah Feliz Skrien
Nicholas Sanjay Steinkraus
Matthew Lee Thomason
Wyatt James Whitt
Arthur Wietharn
Peter Thomas Lyons
Godsway Akpabli
Yaa Saah Apenteng
Desmond Ofori Koranteng
Thieu Tan
Tyrus Kevin Karmesin
Alexander Glenn Canales
Christian H Hensley
Michael Alexander Liebel
Skylar Ember Grace
Shelby Renee Peterson
Deven V. Raman
Hadrian Tiberius Keith*

2024 MACEY SCHOLARS

The William B. & Jean M. Macey Scholars Program recognizes undergraduates whose accomplishments in academics, research, service, volunteerism, and other activities are exceptional and inspiring. Macey Scholars receive a financial award of \$5,000.

Ember Philpot

James Angelos

Ruthie Mulvaney

Calyssa Huff

COMMENCEMENT NATIONAL ANTHEM

VALERIE THOMAS

Valerie Arias Thomas is the first graduate of New Mexico Tech's new Master's program in Public Engagement, specializing in Science Communication and Design. A lifelong learner and creative force, Val is also the university's Research Compliance Officer. Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and a proud New Mexico resident since 1995, she brings passion, resilience, and a deep commitment to advocacy and education to everything she does.

Val's journey to graduate school was shaped by her experience with learning disabilities, including ADHD and dyscalculia. Diagnosed in her 30s, she finally received the support she needed to fulfill a dream she had carried since childhood. Her academic journey sends a powerful message to others: "It's never too late."



Outside of work and studies, Val is a poet, singer/songwriter, sewing instructor, and active community theater volunteer. A first-generation American on her father's side and part of a Tech legacy family, she describes working at NMT as "coming home." She is known across campus as a warm, encouraging presence—someone who builds bridges and makes others feel seen and supported.

Val lives in Socorro with her husband of 21 years, Benjamin Thomas, and their three children, Aiden, Rory, and Madison.

COMMENCEMENT STUDENT SPEAKER

BISHOP CERVANTES

Bishop Cervantes is a proud New Mexican, having lived in various parts of the state but spending most of his upbringing in Belen. A Hispanic American and passionate community leader, he has made an enduring mark on New Mexico Tech through his dedication to service, leadership, and connection. Since arriving at Tech, he has been an officer for the Swim Club, Martial Arts Club, Golf Club, and Men's Soccer Team, and is the founder of the Kappa Sigma Pi-Tau Chapter, the only fraternity on campus. Under his leadership as chapter president, the organization contributed over 2,500 volunteer hours, including more than 300 of his own, and raised over \$2,000 for veterans' charities.



Beyond leadership roles, he was a kickboxing coach for the Martial Arts Club and a member of multiple student clubs on campus. His contributions extended into the broader Socorro community, where he served as an after-school tutor for several years and a PE teacher at a local charter school. Through the Upward Bound program, he taught summer courses in guitar, kickboxing, and algebra to local high school students.

Academically, he earned a B.S. in Mathematics with a 3.92 GPA, graduating with Highest Honors, and was named a Tech Scholar. His academic work includes coauthoring a published paper titled "Study of optimal vaccination strategies for early COVID-19 pandemic using an age-structured mathematical model: A case study of the USA", and competing in the 2023 Mathematical Contest in Modeling. He was recognized nationally by his fraternity as an Outstanding Chapter President and honored by the New Mexico Tech administration with the "Outstanding Community Service" award.

Known for his warmth and ability to create community, he has formed meaningful connections with students and faculty across nearly every department on campus, and has worked tirelessly to build and support both the New Mexico Tech and greater Socorro communities, dedicating his time, energy, and heart to fostering connection, service, and lasting impact. As a graduate student, he has worked as a TA and tutor in the Math Help Room, while earning his Master of Science in Mathematics with a specialization in Industrial Mathematics. After graduation, he plans to move to Albuquerque and begin the next chapter of his journey in the workforce.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

CAITANO DA SILVA, PHYSICS

Dr. Caitano da Silva: As brilliant and impressive as a lightning strike!

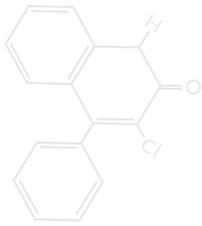
Dr. Caitano da Silva of the Department of Physics is this year's recipient of the 2025 Distinguished Teaching Award. The feedback on the level of instruction received from students this year impressed the committee – particularly those comments submitted on behalf of Dr. da Silva. Students repeatedly emphasized his ability to make challenging topics accessible and his compassion for students. Some quotes from students include:

- *A truly exceptional theoretically minded professor. Extremely clear and detailed lectures. Clearly cares a great deal about his subject matter.*
- *He is an amazing teacher. He teaches a very hard physics class... I feel like if I did not have such an amazing teacher like him, I would not have done as well in the class.*
- *Was an amazing professor, taught the concepts extremely well, was also very funny.*
- *He is one of the best professors in the Physics department, and his teaching style is amazing. He is so kind and very understanding.*



Dr. da Silva is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physics. He received his Ph.D. at Pennsylvania State University. He teaches physics courses throughout the undergraduate and graduate curriculum. His scholarship focuses on atmospheric and space electricity, plasma physics, and computer modeling at NMT's Langmuir Laboratory. He joined the NMT faculty in 2018.

As one of his other student's summarized "Dr. da Silva is actually the best lecturer I have ever had. ... If I ever become a professor, I would set my class up as he did." This is a wonderful comment to hear and is one of many reasons Dr. da Silva is this year's Distinguished Teaching Award recipient.



A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM THE NEW MEXICO TECH CLASS OF 2025

As we prepare to turn the page and step into the next chapter of our lives, we, the graduating class of 2025, pause to express our deepest gratitude.

To our families and friends—thank you for believing in us, cheering us on through every success and setback, and never letting us forget our potential. Whether you were near or far, your love and support helped carry us through long nights, tough exams, and moments of doubt. This accomplishment is as much yours as it is ours.

To our professors and mentors—you challenged us, inspired us, and opened doors we didn't even know existed. You turned classrooms and labs into spaces of curiosity and growth. Dr. Mahyar Amouzegar, your presidential leadership and vision have shaped the direction of Tech and encouraged us to think boldly about our futures. Dr. Becci Spruill, thank you for your dedication to student success and your unwavering support in and out of the classroom—you reminded us that compassion and curiosity go hand in hand. Dr. Nancy McMillan, your passion for geology revealed the wonder and history held in every rock and ridge. Dr. Lorie Liebrock, thank you for your steadfast commitment to innovation, inclusion, and excellence across every discipline. And to every faculty member who saw something in us when we couldn't yet see it in ourselves—thank you.

To the staff across campus—from the Fidel Center to the Skeen Library, from Residential Life to Career Services, and to those in Alumni Affairs and Advancement—you kept us grounded and connected. You offered helping hands, kind smiles, and the support we didn't always know we needed. Thank you for reminding us that once a Techie, always a Techie.

To our peers—thank you for being our study partners, roommates, club members, and lifelong friends. We arrived at Tech as individuals and leave as a community. We've survived chemistry labs, Calc 2 exams, lost data, and last-minute victories—together.

As we cross this stage, we carry with us not only knowledge and skills, but memories, friendships, and the legacy of those who helped us along the way.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

—The New Mexico Tech Class of 2025



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CLASS OF 2025

THIS IS YOUR MOMENT

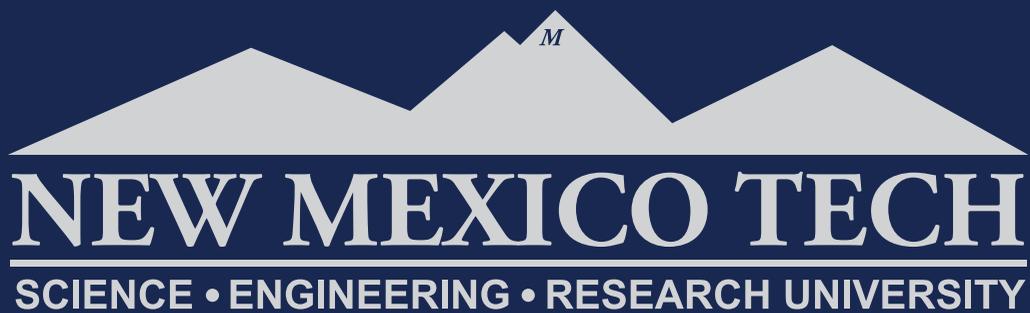
To All of the NMT Graduates,

Congratulations on your incredible achievement! I am so proud of everything you've accomplished at New Mexico Tech, and am excited to welcome you into the alumni family. This is just the beginning of your journey, and I know you'll continue to make a difference wherever you go. Remember, once a Techie, always a Techie! Stay connected with us, and we'll be here to support you every step of the way. I can't wait to hear about your future successes, and am thrilled to have you as part of this amazing community.

Welcome to the family!

Sandi Lucero
Director of Alumni Affairs





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