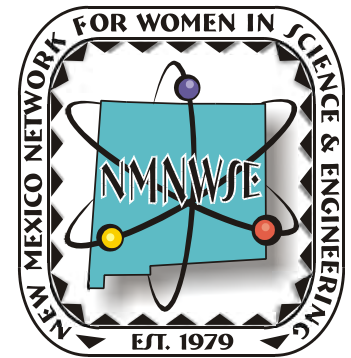


New Mexico Network for Women in Science and
Engineering
PO Box 1360, Los Alamos, NM 87544
NMNWSE_Board-l@list.unm.edu
<http://nmnwse.org>



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennie DeMarco, NMNWSE Impact Award Chair
(jennied@nmsu.edu; 352-262-5226)

Phyllis Baca Honored for Promoting Women in Science and Technology

Albuquerque NM (October 23, 2013) - The New Mexico Network for Women in Science in Engineering (NMNWSE), in partnership with the NM Commissions on the Status of Women, is proud to honor **Phyllis Baca of Santa Fe** with the *Seventh Annual IMPACT! Award*.

The award is given to a New Mexico woman for her extraordinary efforts in encouraging and helping women enter and succeed in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), as well as promoting networking and communication among women in these careers.

Through her teaching at Santa Fe Community College's engineering department and volunteering with numerous local, state, and regional agencies such as *Project Lead the Way* and *Expanding Your Horizons*, Phyllis has touched the lives of hundreds of NM educators and thousands of NM students, and has dramatically increased the number of women and Hispanics obtaining STEM degrees in NM. She has truly made an IMPACT!

Baca's passion is to present STEM opportunities to low-income students, especially women and Hispanics, through high school dual-enrollment and eventually retain them as first generation college students. Six years ago Phyllis began volunteering at Santa Fe Community College with a goal to double the number of women and Hispanics enrolled in the engineering department. Phyllis focused on revitalizing the Engineering and Engineering Technologies degree programs through clear career pathways tied to State and National career clusters and more than succeeded in her goal. All of her initial mentee's have gone on to receive degrees and are currently working in their chosen career. Phyllis did so well she was asked to join the faculty of the engineering department, and quickly rose to her present position as Director of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Initiatives at Santa Fe Community College. "As a teacher,

(more)

Phyllis has been an inspiration. She is a role model that I could understand. Her passion as an instructor has always shined through, from the first time I met her in my Introduction to Engineering course to her help and advice today.” wrote Erika Arvizo, one of the first of the women to receive her Associates of Science in General Engineering at Santa Fe Community College.

Phyllis has been both a leader and pioneer in assisting teachers how to better teach so they do not exclude females in the tradition STEM fields. The growth and success of this national program in New Mexico can be attributed to Phyllis’s hard work, dedication, funding and her inability to see any barriers that might keep the program from growing or succeeding.” comments Anthony Hyde, a professor in the Department of Engineering Technology at New Mexico State University and the State University Affiliate Director for *Project Lead the Way*.

Phyllis is a fountain of energy, and besides her professional STEM outreach, over the past four years Phyllis has been instrumental to the success of the Santa Fe Expanding Your Horizons (SF EYH). She has helped organize the conference and build the partnership between NMNWSE and SFCC to offer the SF EYHs at SFCC. She has coordinated the donation of the SFCC conference space, IT resource allocation, catering, and conference management for the EYH conferences. As a result of her generosity and hard work, the SF EYH has been able to serve 1000+ young women and their parents and teachers. As part of her STEM initiatives, Phyllis also helped put together a packet of career materials distributed to over 600 high school teachers statewide. Phyllis has touched the lives of hundreds of NM educators and thousands of NM students, and has dramatically increased the number of women and Hispanics obtaining STEM degrees in NM.

NMNWSE began in 1975 with a core group of faculty and staff from UNM wanting to reach out to women in science as a group. Since then, the Network has worked to encourage and help women enter and succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers and promote networking and communication among members by providing regularly scheduled meetings, talks and other local activities.

For further information on NMNWSE or the IMPACT! Award, please visit www.nmnwse.org.

###