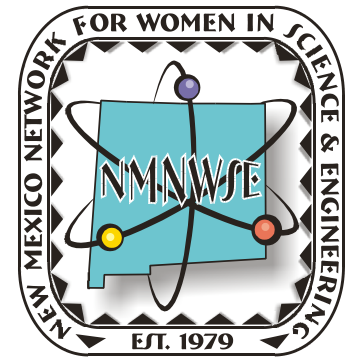


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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Laura Crossey Honored for Promoting Women in Science and Technology

Albuquerque NM (October 22, 2015) - The New Mexico Network for Women in Science in Engineering (NMNWSE) is proud to honor **Laura Crossey**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences at the University of New Mexico, **Albuquerque** with the ***Ninth 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.

Laura is being recognized for her extraordinary 30-year mentoring effort encompassing directly mentoring over 100 undergraduate and graduate student mentees in her own discipline, as well as playing a leading role in local and statewide K-12 through graduate level STEM support programs, served on the NM Governor's committee to establish Science Standards, and helping the University of New Mexico to develop policies and programs that support inclusive participation and success in STEM across the campus improving the college experience for thousands of students, not to mention volunteering her time as a Science Fair Judge, Coach, PTA President, and Soccer referee.

With a special focus on Hispanic and Native American students, Laura brings them into research by finding a project for them near where they grew up, "an incredibly smart and insightful approach" which allows the student (and their community) "to understand completely that science is right where they grew up, that they can study the dirt they played in, the rocks they found, and the mountains they climbed," as noted by Maggie Werner-Washburne, past president of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS).

Brandi Cron Kamermans, one of the students Laura mentored, states: "In the last eight years I have become a scientist, and it would not have been possible without Dr. Crossey's support", adding that she is pursuing a PhD because "Dr. Crossey's mentoring inspired me and effectively prepared me for doctoral study. I saw her do this for many students – each one taking a unique path in their education." Brandi adds that "Dr. Crossey helped me see that science and my Navajo tradition are not necessarily so separate, and that is one of many important wisdoms Dr. Crossey offers her students."

(more)

Laura has truly made an **IMPACT!**

NMNWSE would like to thank all current and past **IMPACT!** Award nominees for encouraging and helping women enter and succeed in STEM and related nontraditional careers and promoting networking and communication among women in these careers. We would also like to thank all current and past nominators taking the time to recognize and highlight the contributions these remarkable women. In the words of one of the 2014 award judges: "I am impressed by ALL the women that were nominated. Inspires me to get more involved!"

The New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering, in cooperation with the NM Commission on the Status of Women, initiated in 2007 the NMNWSE **IMPACT!** Award to recognize the contributions of women in New Mexico.

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.

In 1974, the NM Commission on the Status of Women was created by state statute to increase the knowledge of the rights, responsibilities and interests of women and girls in New Mexico and to preserve women's history and contributions to our state. The Commission was terminated in 2011.

For further information on NMNWSE or the **IMPACT!** Award, please visit <http://nmnwse.org>.

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photo: Laura Crossey, 2015 NMNWSE **IMPACT!** Award winner.