



# 2021 Candidate Profiles

## President Nomination

### **Katie Rodarte**

Katie is a Group Administrator within the X Computational Physics Division at Los Alamos National Laboratory. She earned her Business Administration: Project Management degree from Regis University in Colorado and a Master of Science in Global and National Security from the University of New Mexico. Through her enjoyment of Project Management, Katie led the NMNWSSE team to establish a new website at the start of 2021. Outside of her career in Global and National Security, Katie is passionate about becoming a veterinarian and will apply to veterinary school this fall. Her career goal is to combine her education to become a public health veterinarian for the Federal government. She enjoys working with both people and animals so she would like to help advance the One Health Initiative to protect the correlation between the environment, wildlife, and public health. Outside of her role at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Katie works part time with a very busy local veterinary office. She is an outdoor enthusiast and enjoys horseback riding, playing tennis, biking, swimming, hiking, camping, and traveling. She is the Chair of the Finance Committee for the University of New Mexico Graduate and Professional Student Association as well as the Secretary of the Bicycle Safety Committee for Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Katie enjoys connecting with her community and helping others to explore exciting new interests and passions. She appreciates providing engaging STEM opportunities to encourage young learners and help them to reach their full potential. Over the last 10 years, Katie has mentored children in a variety of outreach programs, such as the Santa Fe Children's Museum, Pop Culture Classroom, Pikes Peak Readers, and the New Mexico RoboRave.

## Vice President Nomination

### **Haylie Lobeck**

I am interested in becoming the Vice President / President – Elect because I know how important it is for young girls (and boys) to have a positive experience with STEM as they grow up, and NMNWSSE is a group that provides that opportunity to kids across the state.

I grew up in South Bend, Indiana and earned a B.S. in Chemistry from Arcadia University (Philadelphia, PA) in 2014 and a Ph.D. in Actinide Chemistry and Mineralogy from the University of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN) in 2019. I moved to Albuquerque, NM in 2019 when I started a

fellowship with the National Nuclear Security Administration, and I recently converted to a full-time position as a federal program lead of tritium production activities within the NNSA.

I have been a member in NMNWSE for two years and chair of the fundraising committee for one year, and I have really enjoyed meeting all of the incredible members and hearing about the good work we are doing around the state. I believe that the STEM outreach that the NMNWSE does through the STEM Conferences and participating in science fairs is a great way to connect to the community and promote how "cool" STEM can be. Going through school, I can see how easy it is for students to fall away from the STEM path, but I believe that through science enrichment programs for all grade levels you can keep the interest alive and promote the next generation of scientists and engineers. I also believe that the mentorship opportunities available through NMNWSE is extremely valuable to early career women scientists. We have such a diverse group of incredibly impressive members and I believe that their knowledge and resources can greatly impact women who are starting out in their field. I have been personally mentored by two of the NMNWSE members and I am grateful for their knowledge and support as I navigated the world of having my first "real job" and establishing myself in Albuquerque.

I'd like to become the Vice President / President Elect of the NMNWSE because I truly support the group's mission and I'd like to have a bigger role in giving back to my community through the promotion of STEM and providing support to early career women in science and engineering.

## Secretary Nomination

### **Lorraine Mottishaw-Founds**

Lorraine Mottishaw-Founds received her Master's degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of New Mexico in 2020 after graduating from the University of Idaho with degrees in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering in 2017. Her research experience is involved with tissue engineering and regenerative medicine with a focus in orthopaedic biochemical interactions. She is currently stationed in Dayton, OH.

Lorraine has been actively volunteering for the FIRST robotics program, where she mentored teams and encouraged them to compete at the national level. During her master's degree, she volunteered at Explora! in New Mexico, which encourages young girls, women, and other underrepresented groups to tackle and learn science on a budget. Furthermore, she has volunteered and organized a graduate student conference at University of New Mexico, where the admission was free for all graduate students to present to high-level executives in the nearby industrial sector. Lorraine has this to say: "Since before college I've been an avid lover and learner of science. Through my volunteering efforts, I've always encouraged others around me to join and work in the field of STEM, particularly in the engineering sciences. I also encouraged those who could not afford to go to national conferences to be able to attend networks and establish their work in the thriving industry around them. In this way, I've volunteered and helped to organize three Albuquerque "Expanding Your Horizons" events.'

## Board Member at Large Nominations

### **Nanette Founds**

Nanette has been a member of the NMNWSE for almost four decades, beginning around 1984. Through the network, she has participated in many events encouraging young women to take advantage of the exciting opportunities available from pursuing educational opportunities in science, technology engineering, and mathematics. The Network has also provided opportunities to reach out to other inspirational women who seek to improve young women's knowledge about STEM, and career opportunities. Growing up, she was encouraged to develop and apply her interests in mathematics and science.

Nanette has this to say: "A few decades ago, women were just beginning to explore higher opportunities in STEM education and career fields. But, ultimately, I got my degrees in Chemistry and Aeronautical Engineering. As I applied the inherent knowledge gained through these accomplishments, I have been able to take advantage of career opportunities that have included technology management and leading organizations." Her career has taken her from a member of the Armed Forces to public service as a Federal employee. After four decades, this network still provides opportunities to serve the community, engage with inspirational women, and find a renewed sense of hope by applying critical thinking and knowledge to important issues that are challenging our community and nation.

### **Barbara Torres**

Ms. Barbara Torres received her B.S. and M.S. degrees in Physics from the University of New Mexico. At Northrop Grumman Company, she held leadership positions in Ethics and Business Conduct, Business Development, and project management for various scientific programs and has been nationally recognized as one of the Top Ten Business Women in the American Business Women's Association. After working many years in the corporate sector, she established her own business providing professional technical consulting services in the area of business development, ethics programs, and other regulatory areas. Concurrently, she also teaches part-time at St. Pius High School and has lived in Tijeras with her husband for over 38 years.

Barbara is active in her community; having served many years as a member of the United Way Community Fund Review Panel, and judged in local, regional, state, and international Science and Engineering Fairs. Having served on the NMNWSE Board of Directors for many years, Barbara has keen insight into the board's running and policy-making decisions.

### **Katherine Wozniak**

Dr. Katherine Wozniak earned her B.S. in Biochemistry with minors in Mathematics and African Studies from Duquesne University in 2014. During her summers as an undergrad, she conducted

research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. In 2019, Katie earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with a minor in Teaching. Katie studied reproduction in aquatic organisms, specifically focusing on the electrical events that occur at the moment of fertilization. Immediately following graduate school, Dr. Wozniak did a brief Teaching Postdoc at the University of Pittsburgh, where she developed and implemented curriculum for two introductory biology labs that focused on conducting novel research. After, she took a year off to build a camper and travel across the Southwestern United States. Katie is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico working within the Agile Biofoundry to synthetically engineer microbial hosts to produce industrially-relevant bioproducts.

As a researcher and STEM educator, Katie believes that science should be readily accessible and understandable to a broad audience. She has a particular interest in taking complex scientific concepts/ideas and distilling them into digestible stories that the layman can understand. She is excited to share her passion for science with the diverse youth of New Mexico through working with NMNWSE.

## **Phyllis Baca**

Phyllis Baca is an engineering faculty member who also serves as the Director of STEM Initiatives at Santa Fe Community College. Coupled with grant funding, her tenure as faculty as well as her chemical engineering background has allowed Phyllis to provide a unique perspective to her students. She has served on a variety of STEM committees including the Santa Fe Community College's President's Diversity Task Force, The Santa Fe Alliance for Science Advisory Board, NM Innovate-Educate Education Advisory Board as well as the NM Alliance for Minority Participation Advisory Board.

One of her professional goals includes doubling the number of minorities and women graduating in STEM from her college. To this purpose, she has revitalized the Engineering and Engineering Technologies Degree programs through clear career pathways tied to State and National career clusters. With a primary focus on high school learners, she hopes to gain an understanding of the "exit" and "entry" points for minorities and young women in STEM. Phyllis has this to say: "My passion is to present STEM opportunities to low-income, Hispanic students through high school dual-enrollment and eventually retain them as first-generation college students."