

2025

SOUTH WEST HEP & CAMP

student leadership conference



Daily Schedule

Thursday – February 20, 2025

05:00 pm – 07:00 pm Registration and Dinner
07:00 pm – 09:00 pm Social Engineering

Friday – February 21, 2025

06:30 am – 08:00 am Breakfast
08:30 am – 08:50 am Plenary Session
09:00 am – 10:15 am Workshops (1)
10:30 am – 11:45 pm Workshops (2)
11:45 pm – 01:15 pm Lunch
01:30 pm – 02:45 pm Workshops (3)
03:00 pm – 3:15 pm Santa Fe Self-Tour Overview
3:15 pm – 5:00 pm Santa Fe Self-Led Group tours
05:00 pm – 5:30 pm Freshen up Time
05:30 pm – 06:15 pm Dinner
06:15 pm – 6:45 pm Keynote
06:45 pm – 7:30 pm Community Service Presentations
07:30 pm – 11:00 pm Dance

Saturday – February 22, 2025

08:00 am – 08:45 am Breakfast
10:30 am – 11:45 am Workshops (4)
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Closing Lunch and Keynote



Friday, Session One

WORKSHOPS: 09:00 am – 10:15 am

[*click here for full workshop descriptions](#)

ROOM: Rivera A

TITLE: Storytelling in STEM: Connecting Science to Your Life

PRESENTER(S): Marlene Garcia Araiza, NSF HSI STEM Grant STEM Success Specialist & Data Analyst, Adams State University

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: STEM fields

ROOM: Rivera B

TITLE: Bills, Thrills, and Budgeting Skills

PRESENTER(S): Jessely Chaparro, BUENO CAMP

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Personal Exploration / Personal development, College readiness, Job/Career readiness

ROOM: Lamy

TITLE: Local Activism: Problem Based Organizing

PRESENTER(S): Michelle Perez, Amanda Short, Francesca Blueher

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Personal Exploration / Personal development, Civic Engagement

ROOM: Meem

TITLE: Beyond Undergrad: How research opportunities can prepare you for graduate school and your career

PRESENTER(S): Alejandro Mendiaz-Rivera, Sr. Program Manager, UNM El Centro de la Raza & Brandon Chavarria-Salazar, Student Affairs Leadership Intern, UNM Division of Student Affairs

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Job/Career readiness, Research & Graduate School

ROOM: O'Keefe

TITLE: Gracias a mis padres, a mi familia, y a mi comunidad: reconociendo nuestra riqueza cultural.

PRESENTER(S): Candelaria Rubi Martinez Reyes, Subdirectora de Logros Académicos, CAMP en la Universidad Metropolitana de Denver and Alejandro Tovar Sosa, Estudiante de Doctorado, Departamento de Sociología en la Universidad de Nuevo México

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Personal Exploration / Personal development, Civic Engagement

Friday, Session Two

[*click here for full workshop descriptions](#)

WORKSHOPS: 10:30 am – 11:45 pm

ROOM: Rivera A

TITLE: Unlocking Opportunities: Navigating Your Internship Journey with NMSI

PRESENTER(S): Salvador Chavez, Associate Director, NMSI & Zainab Ascencio, Senior Program Coordinator, NMSI

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Motivation, Job/Career readiness, Professional Development

ROOM: Rivera B

TITLE: Science & Leadership

PRESENTER(S): JSalina Torres, PhD, MPH Director of Quality Assurance

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: STEM fields, Motivation

ROOM: Lamy

TITLE: The Power of Networking: Building Relationships for Success

PRESENTER(S): Manuel Gomez, UNM CAMP Peer Leader

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Personal Exploration / Personal development, College readiness, Job/Career readiness

ROOM: Meem

TITLE: Inside the System: Lets Talk Politics

PRESENTER(S): Ambar Lozano, BUENO CAMP student, Dr. Robert Garcia, Program Director

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Civic Engagement

ROOM: O'Keefe

TITLE: Nurturing Your Well-being: A Self-Care Sanctuary

PRESENTER(S): NNMC CAMP Student Leaders, Alma Rivera, CAMP Academic Advisor

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Personal Exploration / Self-Care & Wellness

Friday, Session Three

[*click here for full workshop descriptions](#)

WORKSHOPS: 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm

ROOM: Rivera A

TITLE: Puro Parti Leadership Skills

PRESENTER(S): Ivan Olay, UNM CAMP/HEP

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Personal Exploration / Personal development, Motivation, Leadership

ROOM: Rivera B

TITLE: The First Generation Experience in STEM

PRESENTER(S): Stephanie Rocha, R&D Engineer

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: STEM fields, Motivation

ROOM: Lamy

TITLE: Bandana Project

PRESENTER(S): Mariela Hernandez and Priscila Zapata, Adams State University

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Advocacy

ROOM: Meem

TITLE: Know your Rights

PRESENTER(S): Ailinn Martinez, Bryan Avila, Guillermo Palacios

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Personal Exploration / Personal development, Civic Engagement

ROOM: O'Keefe

TITLE: Mapping Your Path, Authoring Your Story, Strengthening The Leader Within

PRESENTER(S): NNMC CAMP Academic Advisor, Alma Rivera and CO-Presenters Alex Rivera and Mateo Cruz-Rivera

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Personal Exploration / Personal development, Motivation, Cultural reclamation

Saturday, Session One

[*click here for full workshop descriptions](#)

WORKSHOPS: 10:30 am -11:45 am

ROOM: Rivera A

TITLE: Si Se Pudo

PRESENTER(S): Luis Hernandez – COSMIAC at the University of New Mexico

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: STEM fields, Personal Exploration / Personal development, Motivation, College readiness

ROOM: Rivera B

TITLE: Bills, Thrills, and Budgeting Skills

PRESENTER(S): Jessely Chaparro, BUENO CAMP

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Personal Exploration / Personal development, College readiness, Job/Career readiness

ROOM: Lamy

TITLE: Mapping Your Path, Authoring Your Story, Strengthening The Leader Within

PRESENTER(S): NNMC CAMP Academic Advisor, Alma Rivera and CO-Presenters Alex Rivera and Mateo Cruz-Rivera

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Personal Exploration / Personal development, Motivation, Cultural reclamation

ROOM: Meem

TITLE: Study Snacks & Brain Fuel: Eating Your Way to Success

PRESENTER(S): Candelaria Rubi Martinez Reyes, Assistant Director of Academic Achievement, MSU Denver

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: Personal Exploration / Personal development, Health

ROOM: O'Keefe

TITLE: From Semillas to STEM: Cultivating a Career in Agricultural Research & Public Service

PRESENTER(S): Julián G. Ángel, Sebastian Romero, Students, Rural Student Project

WORKSHOP CATEGORY: STEM fields, Personal Exploration / Personal development

Keynote Speaker



Rep. Javier Martínez,
Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives

Javier Martínez is the 31st Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives. He has represented Albuquerque's House District 11 since 2015 and previously served as the Majority Floor Leader and Chairman of the House Taxation & Revenue Committee.

As the son of immigrants who spent his early life along the southern border, he is committed to helping working families and New Americans create brighter futures for themselves and their children.

A respected legislator and community leader, Speaker Martínez has been at the helm of some of New Mexico's biggest policy wins for New Mexico families. His landmark achievement was recently establishing New Mexico as the first state to constitutionally guarantee the right to early childhood education for all, backed by millions in sustained funding. He also successfully fought to ensure access to vital healthcare for undocumented immigrants, and to make the state's tax system more fair, including implementing one of the most generous Child Income Tax credits in the nation.

A friendly but firm collaborator known for reaching across the aisle, Speaker Martínez is the Speaker for all of New Mexico's diverse communities. He is passionate about making sure working families, immigrants, people of color, and our youngest New Mexicans have their voices heard in the legislative process.

Speaker Martínez graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law with honors in International and Comparative Law and the Southwest Indian Law Clinic. Since then, he has continued his dedicated advocacy on behalf of New Mexico's most vulnerable families at the local, state, national, and international levels.

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Manuel Serrano

Research & Development Engineer, U.S. Department of Energy/Sandia National Labs, NMSU CAMP Graduate

Dr. Manuel “Manny” Serrano is a native of Hatch Valley, NM. His family originates from Emiliano Zapata, Zacatecas, Mexico, where they have a rich history of cattle ranching and farming. As a child, he worked alongside his grandfather, Don Manuel “Manny” Serrano Sr., in the fields of Doña Ana, Luna, and Sierra Counties, where they planted and harvested crops of onions and Chile. This experience fostered a strong work ethic in him and a deep appreciation for higher education. His aspiration to become an engineer began at the age of 11 when he attended a summer engineering program at New Mexico State University.

Dr. Serrano completed his early education in public schools in Hatch, participating in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program for 4 years. He graduated with honors from Hatch Valley High School and was a first-generation college student. He earned a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from New Mexico State University in 2018, followed by a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 2020, and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in 2023, all from the same institution. During his college years, he was actively involved in student organizations such as the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), the Mexican American Engineering Society (MAES), the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), and the New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation (NM AMP). Dr. Serrano was part of the 12th NMSU College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) cohort.

From 2018 to 2022, Dr. Serrano served as a student intern at Los Alamos National Laboratories, later becoming a year-round student fellow from 2022 to 2023. During his tenure at LANL, he collaborated with scientists and engineers to improve legacy hydrodynamic codes and developed novel methods for modeling and designing multifunctional piezoelectric micro-electromechanical systems. In 2023, he joined Sandia National Laboratories as a Senior Member of the Technical Staff.

In his free time, he enjoys staying active by mountain biking, hiking, weightlifting and training in Muay Thai. He is also dedicated to volunteering and teaching STEM subjects to young students from underrepresented communities.

Student Art



Congratulations to
Moise Tuyikunde of MSU Denver CAMP
this year's Student Art Contest winner

Evaluations

Pre-Conference Questionnaire

[Click here to complete this before the conference](#)

Workshop Evaluations

[Click here to give us your feedback on the workshop you attended](#)

Conference Evaluation

[Click here to give your feedback on the conference as a whole](#)

Conference Website

Click here to visit our website and learn more about your experience in Santa Fe, NM.

