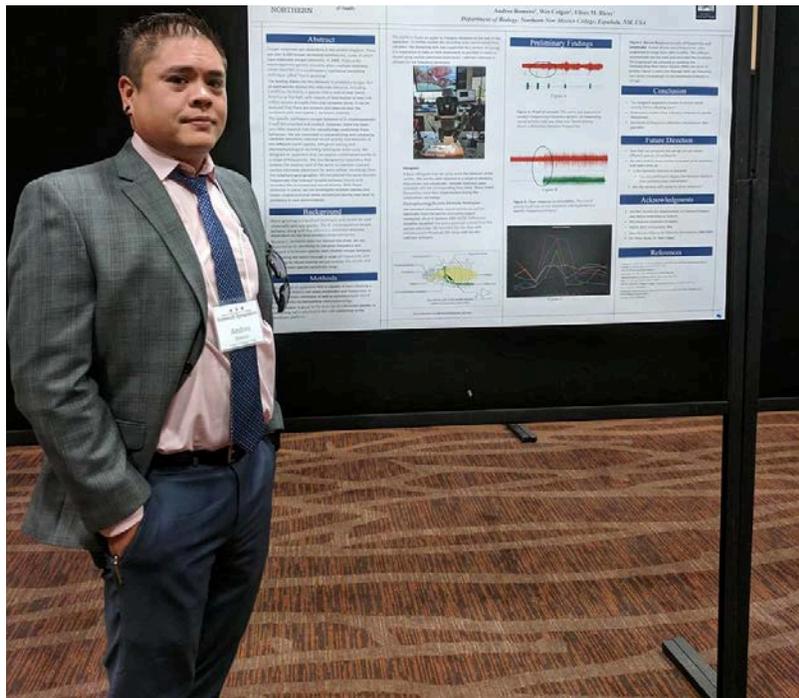


NORTHERN'S ANDRES ROMERO WINS FIRST PLACE IN NEW MEXICO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM POSTER COMPETITION



Andres Romero, biology major at Northern New Mexico College, won first place in the 6th Annual Research Symposium undergraduate poster competition. The symposium was sponsored by the New Mexico Academy of Science (NMAS), New Mexico EPSCoR, the American Chemical Society, UNM Center for Water and the Environment, and the New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation (NM AMP). The life-long Pojoaque resident and STEM student's poster, Characterizing vibration frequency sensitivity and neural activity in escaping earthworms, presented results of his studies with Wes Colgan and Ulises Ricoy characterizing and compared vibration sensitivity inducing

neural activity and escape behavior in different worm species. Andres has devoted a significant amount of his time to the outreach and advancement of underrepresented students in research. Romero's participation in the Symposium is among the first for Northern's students and faculty, which was represented by 17 institutions from across the state, and included the University of Denver and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Also participating in the one-day event, was Charles Knight, Northern Adjunct Faculty, who registered three students from Northern to participate in the research poster challenge, and who presented a poster of his own research with several Northern students, entitled "The Proof, the Whole Proof, and Nothing but the Proof. Charles' poster explored geometry proofs in Euclid's Book 1, *Elements*, through rooted in-tree dependency graphs and adjacency matrices."

The symposium was organized by New Mexico EPSCoR in support of enabling research, education and outreach partnerships as part of a five year, \$20 million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation.



The NMAS Symposium took place at the Sheraton Airport in Albuquerque on Saturday, October 27th. With over 110 attendees, 40 posters, and 25 presentations, the day was filled with networking and topics spanning all STEM fields.



At the end of the day, the Symposium announced the undergraduate and graduate winners of the poster session. First place in the undergraduate poster category went to Andres Romero. Jesse Dirmeyer of Western New Mexico University took second place, and third place went to Samantha Ascoli of UNM. In the graduate category, Thanchira Suriyamongkol of Eastern New Mexico University took first place for her poster, second place went to Kristin Sabbi of UNM, and Vance Miller of ENMU took third place.