

Welcome To the 35th Annual Awards Ceremony



You Took the Challenge!

You Finished the Marathon!



Los Alamos National Laboratory Welcomes You!

Kathy Keith
Director
Community Partnerships
Office



Santa Fe Community College Welcomes You!



**Margaret Peters
Vice President
Academic and Student Affairs
Santa Fe Community College**



Consult Welcomes You!



**Alphabetical by first name:
David, Karen, Patty, Rashan**



Congratulations to the 2024-2025 Finalists Teams!



The Finalists

Albuquerque Academy

**Additive Manufacture Kinetics
and Thermodynamics Model**

Team Member: Harrison Schiek

Sponsors: Jay Garcia
Alex Benedict



The Finalists

La Cueva High School

**You Only Look Once Machine
Learning Solution to Orbital
Debris Detection and
Classification**

Team Members:

Hadwyn Link

Ximena Serna

Sponsor:

Jeremy Jensen

Mentor:

Mario Serna



The Finalists

Los Alamos High School

Constraining the Neutron
Star Equation of State with
Observation Data

Team member:

Tate Plohr

Sponsor:

JeeYeon Plohr

Mentors:

Ingo Tews

Rahul Somasundaram



The Finalists

Los Alamos High School

Point Cloud Surface Reconstruction

Team Member: Andrew Morgan

Mentor: Nathaniel Morgan



The Finalists

Santa Fe Preparatory School

**Investigating Intersubjective
Realities from Novel NLP and
Chaos Theory Approach**

Team Member: Camila Carreon

Sponsor: Jocelyn Comstock

Mentor: Mark Galassi



The Finalists

Santa Fe Preparatory School

**Understanding and Predicting
Trail Maintenance Needs Using
Machine Learning Techniques**

Team Members: Luke Rand
Isaac Olson

Sponsor: Jocelyn Comstock



The Finalists

Welch Home School

**Analyzing Pre-Indo-European Theory
of Etruscan Language Origins Using
Topological Data Analysis**

Team member: Helena Welch

Sponsor: Cindy Welch

Mentor: Paul Welch



The Finalists

Welch Home School

**Modeling Fast Moving Objects
in Crowded Astronomical
Neighborhoods**

Team member: Kalliope Luna Welch

Sponsor: Cindy Welch

Mentor: Paul Welch



NetLogo Agent Based Model

Presented by
Stephen Guerin
Simtable



NetLogo Agent Based Model

Team: The Effects of Mycorrhizal Fungal Networks and Native Species on Plant Health in Arid Environments

School: New Mexico Academy for the Media Arts

Team Members: Eduardo Dorado
Ana Sofia Rodriguez
Zaaliyah Thomas

Teacher/Mentor: Dr. Tanya Mueller



Get out your badge number for a random prize drawing for finishing this marathon!



The winner is....



Excellence in Teamwork Award



Sponsored by New Mexico
Technology In Education

Presented by Kaley Woelfel



Excellence in Teamwork Award



The Efficiency of Magnetic Transportation

School: Justice Code

Team: Kolton Walker
Junior Offor

Sponsor: Becky Campbell



Excellence in Research Award



Sponsored by New Mexico
Technology In Education

Presented by Kaley Woelfel



Excellence in Research Award



Constraining the Neutron Star Equation of State
with Observational Data

School: Los Alamos High School

Team: Tate Plohr

Sponsor: Jee Yeon Plohr



Human Computer Interaction Award

Sponsored by
Stephen Guerin
Simtable



Human Computer Interaction Award



How Can Virtual Reality Help Kids
Escape the Confines of Hospitals
by Entering New Worlds?

School: New Futures

Team: Xa'Ria Rush

Sponsor Rachel Kilman



Head Judges

Richard Barrett



Michael Trahan



Kaley Woelfel



Recognition of Expo Judges

Hats off to our 22 Expo and Finalist Judges from Challenge Alums, Grad Students, National Labs, Nonprofits, Small and Large Businesses.

Please stand up and take a bow.



Recognition of Expo Judges

Leila Alhemali

Rusty Davis

Scott Levy

Lonnie Rednour

Geoff Valdez

Char Arias

Susan Gibbs

James Overfelt

Dorian Sims

Kyreen White

Richard Barrett

Max Lazo

Lee Rand



Finalist Judges

Stephen Guerin

Irene Lee

Kasra “Kaz” Mavin

Mark Petersen

Timothy Thomas

Michael Trahan

Kaley Woelfel

Simtable

NMSU and MIT

Simtable

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sandia National Laboratories

Sandia National Laboratories

Blue Halo



Volunteer of the Year Award

Congratulations to

Thomas Bowles

**For his many hours of helping the
Supercomputing Challenge**



Environmental Modeling Award

Presented by David Kratzer



Environmental Modeling Award

Simulating Interactions Between Varied Predators and Preys

School: Santa Fe Preparatory School

Team: Marlow Lichty

Sponsor: Jocelyn Comstock



Community Impact Award



**Presented by Kyreen White
UNM and Challenge Alumni**



Community Impact Award



The impact of Food Insecurity
in New Mexico

School: Justice Code

Team: Mekhi Bradford
Lukas Lee Baires

Sponsor: Becky Campbell



Innovation in Data Science Award

Presented by Rashan Issac



Innovation in Data Science Award

Investigating Intersubjective Realities From Novel
NLP and Chaos Theory Approach

School: Santa Fe Preparatory School

Team: Camila Carreon

Sponsor: Jocelyn Comstock



Creativity and Innovation Award

**Presented by Tim Thomas
Sandia Laboratories**



Creativity and Innovation Award

Predicting the drug and micro-nano plastic interactions inside the body using molecular dynamics modeling and machine learning

School: Albuquerque Academy

Team: Ahana Koushik

Sponsor: Jay Garcia



Magellan Award

An Explorer and a Risk Taker

Sponsored by Daniel and Mel Fuka, Challenge Advocates



Magellan Award

An Explorer and a Risk Taker

Sponsored by Daniel and Mel Fuka, Challenge Advocates



Exploring the Moon with VEX Robotics

School: Truman Middle School

Team: Josue Ochoa
Kaleb Martinez

Sponsor: Natali Barreto Baca



Middle School Award



Presented by Karen Glennon



Middle School Award



Modeling Urban Heat Islands
and Rural Areas

School: Mountain Elementary

Team: Emmaline Fadner

Sponsor: Zeynep Unal



Teacher Appreciation Award



I touch the future, I teach

Christa McAuliffe





Teacher Appreciation Award

Dr. Tanya Mueller - New Mexico Media Arts

**Ana Sofia Rodriguez, Eduardo Dorado, Zaaliyah Thomas
please come up here!**

These are the comments the NMMA team sent in!





Teacher Appreciation Award

Mrs. Zeynep Unal

Mountain Elementary

Emmaline Fadner please come up here!

These are the comments the Mountain Elementary Team sent in.





Teacher Appreciation Award

Becky Campbell - Justice Code

Lukas Baires and Mekhi Bradford

Please come up here!

These are the comments the Justice Code Team sent in.



NUMBERS PLEASE!



LOGO FOR NEXT YEAR! 2025-2026

Presented by

And the LOGO is



LOGO for Year 2025-2026

2025 SUPER 2026

COMPUTING
CHALLENGE

Shaping the Next Generation

Team: Luke Rand
Isaac Olson

School: Santa Fe Preparatory School

Sponsor: Jocelyn Comstock



Technical Poster Award



Crowd Favorite



GROWING PLANTS ON MARS WITH CYBERBOT ROBOTICS

Purpose

This project explores the feasibility of growing plants on Mars using an autonomous robotic system called CyberBot. The goal is to design and simulate a rover capable of navigating the Martian environment, monitoring habitat conditions, and caring for crops in a controlled greenhouse.

DATA



Human missions to Mars necessitate a sustainable food supply, requiring astronauts to cultivate plants for nutrition, oxygen, and mental health. However, Mars presents a challenging environment with a thin, carbon dioxide-rich atmosphere, and extremely cold average temperatures of around -81°F (-63°C).



CODING

```

from cyberbot import *
# backward_three_seconds.py

# stop
bot(10, servo_speed(-75))
sleep(3000)

# stop
bot(11, servo_speed(None))
bot(11, servo_speed(None))
  
```

MARS

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

CyberBot Navigates Mars-Like Terrain with High Success

Simulation trials show a significant improvement in CyberBot's ability to navigate complex, obstacle-filled Martian terrain. The final algorithm achieved a 90% success rate in reaching the target plant site within the allotted time.

Conclusions

- **Martian Farming Is Feasible**
 - In a simulated pressurized, Earth-like greenhouse, CyberBot maintained optimal conditions (20–25 °C, ~60% humidity), showing that controlled environments can support plant life on Mars.
 - Robots Reduce Astronaut Risk & Workload
 - CyberBot handled water/irrigation, climate monitoring, and adaptive responses (like adjusting water during heat), reducing the need for astronaut labor in potentially hazardous conditions.
 - **Healthy Growth Under Robotic Care**
 - Plants not only survived but thrived, suggesting that Martian agriculture is technically achievable—with potential for scaling up to grow vegetables, grains, and legumes.
 - **Data-Driven Control Is Key**
 - CyberBot logged over 1,000 data points per run, detecting subtle environmental changes and enabling responsive, precise farming—crucial for success on Mars.

Sponsor: Natali Barreto Baca



New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering



Presented by Anna Llobet Megias



New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering

New Mexico School for the Arts

Team Member: Elisea Jackson
Megan Odom

Sponsor: Sarah Rowe, Acacia McCombs

Mentor: Felina Rivera Calzadillas



Longevity Award

Presented by David Kratzer



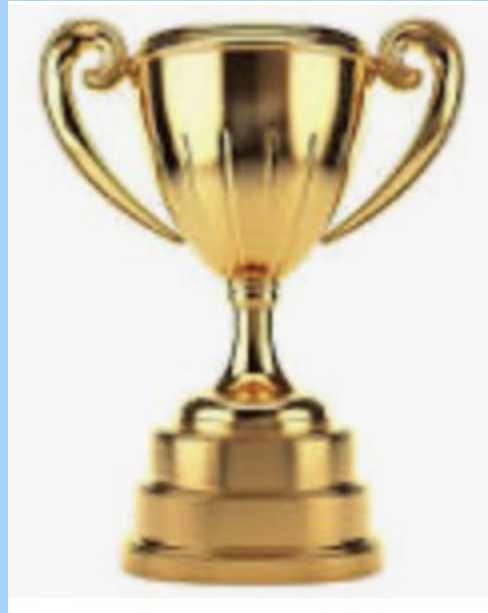
Longevity Award

Congratulations to
Andrew Morgan

for being in the Supercomputing Challenge
for 7 years!



Judges' Special Awards



Judges' Special Award

Perseverance

Growing Plants on Mars with
CyberBot Robotics

School: Truman Middle School

Team Members: Carlos Cantu
Zinoc Fang

Sponsor: Natali Barreto Baca



Judges' Special Award Best User Interface

The Impact of Food Insecurity in
New Mexico

School: Justice Code

Team: Mekhi Bradford
Lukas Lee Baires

Sponsor: Becky Campbell



Judges' Special Award Computational Chemistry

Predicting the drug and micro/nano-plastic interactions inside the body using molecular dynamics modeling and machine learning

School: Albuquerque Academy

Team: Ahana Koushik

Sponsor: Jay Garcia



Judges' Special Award

Advancing Geospatial Analytics

Understanding and Predicting Trail
Maintenance Needs Using Machine
Learning Techniques

School: Santa Fe Preparatory School

Team: Luke Rand
Isaac Olson

Sponsor: Jocelyn Comstock



Judges' Special Award

Creative Application of Computational Linguistics

Pre-Indo-European Theory of Etruscan
Language Origins Using Topological
Data Analysis

School: Welch Homeschool

Team: Helena Welch

Sponsors: Cindy Welch
Paul Welch



Judges' Special Award

Computational Material Science

Additive Manufacture Kinetics and
Thermodynamics Model

School: Albuquerque Academy

Team: Harrison Schiek

Sponsors: Jay Garcia
Alex Benedict



Sponsor Recognition

Kudos for our sponsors!!

**The people in these businesses
and companies helped us
reach the Finish Line!!**



Primary Partners

- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Triad National Security, LLC

Gold Partners

- New Mexico Consortium
- Sandia National Laboratories



Silver Partners

- * Gulf Stream Group and bigbyte.cc
- * PNM
- * Westwind

Bronze Partners

- * New Mexico Technology in Education (NMTIE) in conjunction with NMCHECS
- * Simtable/Redfish Group



Educational Partners

- The Center for Connected Learning CCL and Computer-Based Modeling/NetLogo
- Central New Mexico Community College
- CNM Ingenuity, Inc.
- Eastern New Mexico University
- MIT Starlogo Nova
- New Mexico Highlands University



Educational Partners Continued

- New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
- New Mexico Public Education Department
- New Mexico State University
- Northern New Mexico College
- San Juan College
- Santa Fe Community College
- University of New Mexico
- UNM CARC, Center for Advanced Research Computing



Friends of the Challenge

- Computer Science Alliance
- Creighton Edington
- Daniel and Mel Fuka
- Clint Hubbard
- David Janecky
- Hugo Rivera Calzadillas



Friends of the Challenge Continued

- Irene Lee/Roger Critchlow
- Maximo Lazo
- NM Network for Women in Science and Engineering
- Windspirit Therapeutic Massage



You too can be a Challenge Sponsor!



Support the Supercomputing Challenge when you shop!

Visit <http://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire>. Search for Supercomputing Challenge either by name or MY603 and then click Enroll.

New users need to create an account requiring some basic information, a valid email address and a *rewards* card.



Scholarship Recipients



Scholarship Committee

**Hope Cahill, Creighton Edington,
and Dana Roberson**



Scholarship Recipients

Presented by Rashan Isaac

NAME

COLLEGE

HIGH SCHOOL

Andrew Morgan

UNM-LA

Los Alamos HS

Elisea Jackson

Yale

NMSA

Ximena Serna

New Mexico Tech

La Cueva HS



**And the moment we
have ALL been
waiting for**

**Another
Drum roll,
Please!!**



BUT FIRST -----



For Real this Time.....

Our Third Place Winner is



**Another
Drum roll,
please!**



THIRD PLACE

You Only Look Once Machine Learning
Solutions to Orbital Debris Detection and
Classification

SCHOOL: La Cueva High School

TEAM: Hadwyn Link
Ximena Serna

SPONSOR: Jeremy Jensen

CONGRATULATIONS!



Our Second Place Winner is.....



**DRUM ROLL
PLEASE!**

SECOND PLACE

Point Cloud Surface Reconstruction

SCHOOL: Los Alamos High School

TEAM: Andrew Morgan

SPONSOR: Nathaniel Morgan

WELL DONE!!



The moment we've all been waiting for
Our First Place Winner is



FIRST PLACE

Constraining the Neutron Star Equation of State with Observation Data

SCHOOL: Los Alamos High School

TEAM: Tate Plohr

SPONSOR: JeeYeon Plohr

VERY NICE WORK!!



FIRST PLACE WINNERS

Brief overview of their project!

Go for it!!



Closing Comments from our Executive Director David Kratzer

