

The New Mexico Academy of Science Outstanding Science Teacher Awards honor New Mexico science and math educators and have been given since 1968. The Academy recognizes teachers who provide opportunities for students to succeed. Nominations are open to all science and math teachers in New Mexico. Awards are given annually to two K-12 classroom teachers or Informal Science Educators. The American Chemical Society joins with us and presents a monetary award to the NMAS winning teachers. Please view the website for information. www.nmas.org (New Mexico Academy of Science)

This award was given Oct. 19th at an annual meeting, UNM Domenici Health Sciences Center)

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Our second 2024 awardee is Inez Jacobs. She is an educator at Mark Armijo Charter STEM High School, in Albuquerque. She currently teaches Physics, Chemistry, and STEM; and she is a Senior Advisor and Youth Conservation Corp Mentor. Ms. Jacobs has previously been STEM Coordinator and GRADS Teacher for the department and an Instructional Coach to mentor new teachers in best practices. She serves as a teacher advisor for the National Education Foundation and was named a Project Invent Fellow for 2022. Ms. Jacobs received her B.S. in Secondary Education and her [M.S.in](#) Biology, both from NMSU. Ms. Jacobs has had various lab-based research experiences since the beginning of her teaching career working during the summer at Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute. She has also worked at Phase One Molecular Toxicology, and Los Alamos National Laboratory Bioscience Division. She spent three years working at UNM for an intensive summer research experience: Center for High-Performance Materials (2019) Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology (2021, 2022).

Ms. Jacobs is a strong advocate for community collaboration and has partnered with La Academia De Esperanza Charter High School, Albuquerque Job Corp, Fuse Maker Space, Explora, and Yerba Mansa Project. She is a board member for TOTALNM, a nonprofit that supplies teachers with resources for Outdoor Learning. She is also a Teacher Advisor for the National Energy Foundation based in Salt Lake City, Utah.

She demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement through her pursuit of community partnerships, funding opportunities, and enrichment activities that all center on elevating the student experience. These have included a College Expo for the school's Title One socially vulnerable youth and collaborations with the National Energy Foundation around teen leadership and financial management. She developed a 21st Century learning module of enriched curriculum and led Mark Armijo Academy to win the Governor's STEM Challenge three years ago. Recently, Ms. Jacobs received grants to expand her Makerspace and Outdoor Learning Classroom: the American Chemical Society Classroom Grant (2020, 2023), the US Eagle Classroom Grant (2022, 2023), WE Grant, and an Outdoor Equity Grant (2022). She received her TESOL endorsement to teach English Language Learners as part of her continuous professional development plan and completed her Special Education

training last spring through CES LEAP. She sees a need and attempts to solve it through purposeful teaching and procurement of resources.

Congratulations to our 2024 NMAS Outstanding New Mexico Science Teacher, Inez Jacobs.