

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION INITIATIVES

Diversity and inclusion are a key component of *Energize New Mexico's* success. In Year 5, one of the main goals—50% representation by women and underrepresented minorities in all supported programs—was exceeded, with 65% female or underrepresented minority participants. Diversity-specific programs such as Natives in STEM leveraged external funding to host nine hands-on Family STEM Nights at Navajo Nation chapter houses.

NM EPSCoR believes mentors are not only vital to student growth and development, but also essential to the retention of students in STEM fields. In May 2018, NM EPSCoR awarded its second Mentoring Excellence Awards to three outstanding *Energize New Mexico* faculty participants: Dr. Catherine Brewer (NMSU), Dr. Martin Kirk (UNM), and Dr. Juchao Yan (ENMU). The Award recognizes NM EPSCoR participants who not only build relationships with students and support their academic, research, and career endeavors, but also work to create inclusive environments for students with diverse backgrounds. More information on these excellent mentors can be found at www.nmepscor.org.



2018 MENTORING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS, LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Catherine Brewer (NMSU); Dr. Martin Kirk (UNM); Dr. Juchao Yan (ENMU)