

2015 NMNWE Board Elections

Profile for NMNWE President Candidate Rebecca Galves

Rebecca Galves is a motivated leader in outreach and broadening the participation of women and underrepresented minorities in computing, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). With degrees in Information Systems, Geography, and Business, Rebecca is responsible for extensive program development, management, and expansion of initiatives across New Mexico.

Housed at New Mexico State University, in the Department of Computer Science, Rebecca started with one wonderful program that reached 75 students per year, and expanded efforts into 4 outreach programs, reaching over 2,300 students per year. In her five-year tenure, Rebecca and her team of outstanding young women, have provided out-of-school computing and STEM programming to over 14,000 K – 12 students throughout the state.

The longest running informal educational experience offered are Computer Science summer camps for young women. Through this initiative, Rebecca and her team have taught computer programs and computational thinking to over 450 girls in middle and high school. Of this group, 115 have graduated from high school, 99% have matriculated to four-year institutions, and 63% are majoring in computing and STEM fields. It is a tremendous success to have such a large collection of young women entering into computing and STEM fields, particularly in the current climate of these male-dominated fields.

Beyond her chosen field, Rebecca is the state lead for the NM Girls Collaborative, a member of the American Association of University Women, part of the NM steering committee for Million Women Mentors, a University Affiliate lead with the National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT), and co-Committee Chairperson for the Southern NM Aspirations in Computing Affiliate. Through these efforts, Rebecca has coordinated statewide initiatives to empower, celebrate, and acknowledge the work of professional and young women. It is a true passion for Rebecca to bring together and support women in their chosen fields, through collaboration, leveraging of resources, and community involvement.

Through Rebecca's direct leadership in NM, she:

- Established three NCWIT AspireIT programs for young women,
- Brought the AAUW Tech Trek STEM program for young women to NM,
- Helped establish the new Southern NM Aspirations in Computing regional program,
- Led the NM Celebration of Women in Computing conference, which reached over 170 participants,
- Advised 11 teams in the NM Supercomputing Challenge, with 2 top-6 teams in the state,
- Helped establish the fifth and sixth Expanding Your Horizons Conferences in Las Cruces and Carlsbad, NM.