

CCHS Newsletter

College and Career High School: We Turn Dreams Into Degrees



CCHS seniors recently toured the Capital Building in Santa Fe where they got to witness the legislative session.

1

CCHS is partnering with Del Norte High School for Prom. It will take place on Friday April 5

2

Have you signed up for summer classes at CNM yet?

3

Graduation will be on May 2nd this year at Berna Facio at 2:30 PM

4

Staff vs. Students Olympics had to be postponed, new date coming soon

CCHS Students Shine at Chemistry Olympiad

Last month 6 CCHS students competed at the Chemistry Olympiad competition at UNM. Camilla Callow, Easu Mail, Manual Bustillos Lopez, Garrick Tam, Jake Hull and Kimberly Vera Porras competed at the state level by taking an exam and performing lab experiments to demonstrate their chemistry abilities. The winners received cash prizes and the opportunity to move on to the national level competition.

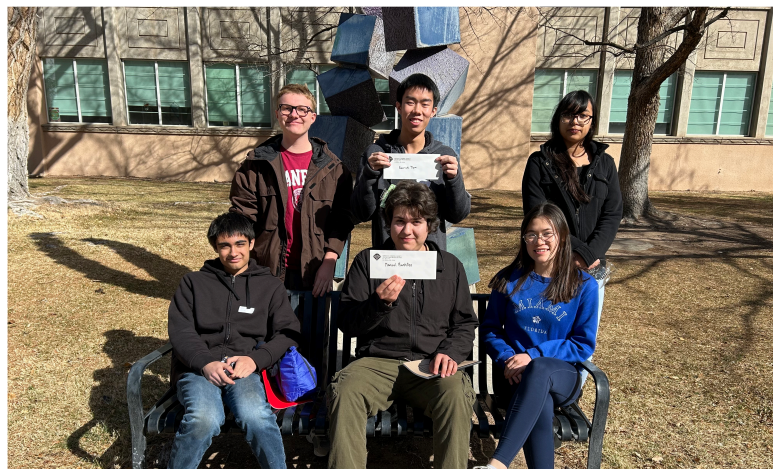
Garrick Tam won 3rd place on the advanced test which qualifies him for the national level exam in April, and Manuel Bustillos Lopez won first place on the general level test.

"Our school's early college model allowed our students to be particularly successful because they could rely on their experiences in both high school and college chemistry, including advanced coursework in General Chemistry in Organic Chemistry. These are classes I did not take until my 20s!" CCHS science teacher Mrs. Brush explained.

"Being at CNM and taking General Chemistry 1 and 2 definitely gave me a huge advantage. The test had questions from a bunch of topics like stoichiometry, thermodynamics, periodic trends and others, which were covered in depth in Gen Chem," explained Tam.

In addition to the tests students were given the opportunity to do some college labs for fun.

"There were two other labs to do, one mystery one where you had to combine a bunch of different acids and bases to try and create a precipitate or color change to then see which chemical it was, to then combine it with different chemicals to try and figure out which formula they were everyone's favorite," said



CCHS students at the Chemistry Olympiad

10th grader Jake Hull.

"My hope for this group of students was that they could work as a team to grow in their interest and depth of understanding in STEM subjects while also getting to network with professors and students with similar interests at the event. I was particularly proud of how our students with more CNM Chemistry coursework actively worked with the other students to teach them new skills and support their progress when preparing for the Olympiad," said Mrs. Brush.

"I would absolutely recommend this activity! Anybody would benefit from this experience, and it helped me find a bit more whimsy in chemistry. Doing something academic without worrying about a grade can really put the fun in learning something just because you want to. It happens every year, and I have my eyes set on doing it again next time," Hull concluded.

Contact Mrs. Brush if you are interested in learning more information about this club and future competitions.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH: FERNANDA MATA TALAVERA

This month we are profiling 12th grader Fernanda Mata Talavera (pictured to the right), who is on track to graduate with her Associate's Degree in Secondary Education in May

What do you like the most about your major and your CNM classes? I like how they challenge my mind. CNM work and lectures are a lot different from high school, and at times can come with greater difficulty, but I have learned I don't back down from a challenge and so far I've had great success.

What will you do after you graduate this spring? I plan on attending UNM to finish up my Bachelor's in Education. I'm hoping to become a secondary education math teacher.

What advice do you have for CCHS underclassmen? Find a balance. After your first two years here you get used to the environment and school work. But, as you take more advanced classes in the future, it can be hard to manage your personal life with your school work. Make time for yourself, and also set aside time to do school work.

