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## In other news

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October 1, 2014



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### Employee Giving Campaign currently underway

The Laboratory's 2015 Employee Giving Campaign officially began on September 15, but a pre#campaign for Laboratory division leaders and other senior management already has raised over \$122,000 for northern New Mexico's nonprofit organizations, including United Way of Northern New Mexico and United Way of Santa Fe County. The larger employee and manager pools have until October 10 to pledge their contributions, with Los Alamos National Security, LLC matching the final result with up to \$1 million. LANS also will continue to cover United Way's administrative costs so that 100 percent of the donations will go directly to the nonprofit recipients.

### Entrepreneurial Teen Grand Challenge teams impress the judges

The Entrepreneurial Teen Grand Challenge, which took place on September 8 as part of the Los Alamos ScienceFest, brought together the winners of teen entrepreneurial events in Española, Santa Fe, Taos and Los Alamos. Altogether, seven teams presented their business plans to a panel of judges from the startup and investment community before the following projects were selected as this year's top teen entrepreneurial ideas in northern New Mexico:

*First prize:* Alejandro Atencio, Xena Martinez and Joshua Lopez from Española for "Quality Mobile Small Engine Repair" (\$400).

*Second prize:* Savannah Martinez from Los Alamos for "Genesisi Eggs" (\$300).

*Third prize:* Teara Herrera, Ana Ochoa, Yazmin Rodriguez, Tatiana Pineda and Kayla Garcia from Santa Fe for "Party Cup" (\$200).

*Best presentation:* Jonmichael Weaver from Los Alamos for "Buddy's Beans" (\$100).

"All of the teams involved were impressive," explained John Chavez, president of the New Mexico Angels organization and one of the Grand Challenge's judges. "It is very exciting to see young, capable individuals thinking about starting a company. The American Dream is alive and well."

The judges were particularly impressed by the achievability of the Española team's goals, and the Santa Fe team's project stood out because their envisioned product—a cup that detects the presence of date rape drugs—would solve a dangerous social problem.

"The Entrepreneurial Teen Grand Challenge focused on the young entrepreneurs in northern New Mexico," said Ted Lopez, another Grand Challenge judge and director of the University of New Mexico-Los Alamos' Small Business Development Center. "Los Alamos National Laboratory led the way for this collaborative and innovative business adventure."

#### 2015 MidSchoolMath conference

The 2015 MidSchoolMath conference, which will take place on February 27 and February 28, 2015, at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center, will bring together math and science teachers from around the country. Participants will have the opportunity to connect with fellow teachers and administrators and learn about innovative lessons crafted to inspire STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education.

The conference is sponsored by Los Alamos National Laboratory. Dan Meyer, an acclaimed TED Talk speaker and former high school math teacher now studying education at Stanford University, will deliver the keynote presentation and lead special sessions and an optional pre-conference workshop on February 26.

Registration is now open. For additional information, registration forms and a two-minute video from last year's conference, visit the [MidSchoolMath](#) website.

New podcasts highlight innovations at Northern New Mexico College and Santa Fe Community College

The Laboratory's Community Programs Office recently released two new podcasts. The [Building a Pipeline of Workers for Los Alamos National Laboratory at Northern New Mexico College](#) podcast discusses the role the Northern New Mexico College plays in helping build a future workforce for Los Alamos National Laboratory. The [Education Innovations: Solar and Green Trades at Santa Fe Community College](#)

podcast showcases new developments at the Santa Fe Community College (SFCC). The innovations include a Higher Education Center offering advanced degrees as well as expansions in programs that introduce students to green technology, renewable energy and more. Both colleges have been able to grow their offerings and reach with support from Los Alamos National Security, LLC.

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