



Laboratory scientist named as ambassador for national women in STEM program`

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Los Alamos National Laboratory bioscientist Harshini Mukundan has been [selected as one of the 125 AAAS \(American Association for the Advancement of Science\) IF/THEN Ambassadors](#). IF/THEN, a national initiative of Lyda Hill Philanthropies, seeks to further women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) by empowering current innovators and inspiring the next generation of pioneers.

“I am delighted, honored and humbled to be chosen as an AAAS IF/THEN Ambassador,” said Mukundan, “this provides me with an opportunity to promote science education and STEM careers in girls and women, and help develop a more diverse and stronger science community!”

AAAS IF/THEN Ambassadors connect with students in person and through various media platforms, including popular YouTube channels and network television shows.

Española YMCA Teen Center robotics team compete in China

The [Española YMCA Teen Center](#) robotics team recently traveled to China to compete in the three-day RoboRAVE International Robotics Competition in the city of Guangzhou. Making the trip were Teen Center Director Ben Sandoval, and team members Zachariah Apodaca, 12; Brandon Sandoval, 14; and Benjamin Sandoval, 17. The Teen Center’s robot finished in ninth place out of 35 teams in their division in the Entrepreneurial Challenge (and first of all the international competitors). Lead engineer Brandon Sandoval – who carried the U.S. flag in the opening ceremony — devised the idea of a remote-controlled robotic watering system for greenhouses. Project technicians Janessa Sandoval, Estrella Aragonez, Sky Romero, Isaiah Guinn and Angel Perea also contributed to the design and construction of the robot.

MSA hosts math teacher professional development

The Laboratory's [Math and Science Academy](#) (MSA) hosted teachers from the Regional Partnership School and the Math Teacher Leader Network (MTLN) at Northern New Mexico College on Sept. 14 for a full day of professional learning in the area of mathematics content. Long-term MSA partner Rick Kitchen, professor in mathematics education at the University of Wyoming, led the day's activities, with the aim of deepening participants' math content knowledge and teaching skills, and developing teacher leaders who will help build teacher capacity in their schools. The professional learning will continue through the 2019–2020 school year and into summer 2020.

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