



Employees give \$2.2m where they live

December 19, 2019

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The Laboratory's 2020 Employee Giving Campaign finished Nov. 30, and so far this year, Lab employees have pledged \$2.55 million for nonprofit organizations. About \$2.27 million (almost 90% of the total donations) of that money will go to New Mexico nonprofits, and Laboratory operator Triad is again matching 50 cents per dollar donated to charitable nonprofits in the seven surrounding counties and in Eddy County. Speaking to Lab employees, Thom Mason, director of the Laboratory, said, "Your generous response demonstrates the commitment Lab employees have to making a difference in our region, which is something I care deeply about."

Thom Mason, director of the Laboratory, visited a third-grade class at Aspen Elementary in Los Alamos as part of Hour of Code week.

Students explore computer coding as part of global program

More than 60 Lab employees, including Director Thom Mason, helped students in more than 100 classes across Northern New Mexico explore computer coding during recent Hour of Code events. The global program reaches tens of millions of students around the world, and the Lab volunteers helped as children in classes from kindergarten through high school worked on a range of age-appropriate coding challenges. Schools serving the communities of Santa Fe, Santa Clara Pueblo, Española, Los Alamos, Ohkay Owingeh, Tesuque, Kewa Pueblo, and Pojoaque all took part.

The new ribosome exhibit features augmented-reality technology.

Ribosome exhibit opens at Bradbury Science Museum

The Ribosome, an exhibit curated by Karissa Sanbonmatsu of the Lab's Theoretical Biology and Biophysics group, officially opened at the Bradbury Science Museum on November 22 with a ribbon-cutting celebration. The visually stunning interpretation of the ribosome and its molecular behaviors includes educational materials for student visitors and an original comic character to help our younger viewers understand the scientific concepts. It also features augmented-reality technology to transport visitors into a ribosome. For more information on this research, please see the [Sanbonmatsu Team webpage](#).

Students from Gonzales Community School in Santa Fe working on their electric cars at the Challenge.

Electric Car Challenge drives learning

Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories teamed up for the sixteenth year to sponsor the Electric Car Challenge, an initiative that helps get students excited about careers in science and engineering. The challenge gives middle school students the chance to form a school team to design and build a small model racecar powered by a battery and motor, learning science concepts and teamwork as they work on the project. Eighteen teams from eight schools in Northern New Mexico took part, with a team from Carlsbad Intermediate Academy taking overall first place in the competition, which took place November 23 at Van Buren Middle School in Albuquerque.

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