

## New educators support STEM outreach

April 2, 2018



One goal of the Bradbury Science Museum Association is to expand science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning in the region. With financial support from Los Alamos National Bank, the Association will continue to support visits to the Museum for students from schools with “high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families” (as defined by the Department of Education).

So far this school year more than 450 students, comprised of third through eleventh graders, have spent time discovering the many subjects covered in the Museum.

Beginning in March, the students and teachers have had a chance to interact with our two new science educators: Pam Dresher and Mel Strong.

Pam Dresher

While Pam moved to Santa Fe in just 2016, she’s been visiting the area for more than 25 years. Not only does Pam have a strong STEM background, she has also taught various grade levels as well as provided professional development for teachers within multiple school districts. Since her arrival to Northern New Mexico she’s worked with the key organizations (such as the Santa Fe Science Initiative) and people who will help her carry out the Museum’s science outreach objectives. In part, her love of science education developed from a childhood connection with NASA, where she later received

a fellowship through its Endeavor STEM Teaching Certificate Project. When not at work, Pam enjoys hiking, mountain biking, fiber arts, and reading non-fiction books.

### Mel Strong

Mel has been in the area for more than 15 years and was most recently based out of Albuquerque. During his time at the University of New Mexico, he instructed education majors on how to teach science. His background also includes teaching younger students as well as adults. Mel is passionate about the value of science education and sees it as helping children develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills for use later in life. His interest in science education encouraged him to spend many hours volunteering in classrooms hoping to spark their lifelong interest in science. He's now happy to be paid for what he used to do for free. The little extra time he has left over is spent restoring cars from the 1950s.

In addition to guiding learning opportunities at the Museum, Mel and Pam will also travel to schools within the region to further expand the reach of science curriculum learning.

They're looking forward to the more than 20 school visits at the Museum that we have scheduled through the end of the school year.

1350 Central Avenue  
Los Alamos, NM 87545



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**SCIENCE** museum

(505) 667-4444  
[www.lanl.gov/museum](http://www.lanl.gov/museum)

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