

National Hispanic Environmental Council



18th ANNUAL NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL STEM INSTITUTE

November 5-13, 2022

To be held at

**NATIONAL FORESTS, NATIONAL PARKS, FEDERAL LABORATORIES, AND
OTHER PUBLIC/PRIVATE LANDS IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO**

“9 DAYS OF LEARNING, A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE”

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

NHEC is accepting applications from top college STEM students -- especially from underrepresented/people of color communities -- for our upcoming 18th Annual NM Environmental STEM Institute.

The Institute will be held in Albuquerque for the first three days, at the **Best Western Albuquerque Airport Hotel and Suites**, at 2400 Yale Blvd. SE, 87106. 505-242-7022. It will then move to the **Pecos Benedictine Monastery**, at 16 Guadalupe Lane, Pecos, NM 87552. 505-757-6415. Pecos is a small town 18 miles northeast of Santa Fe, the capital of NM.

Although the Monastery has a small group of elderly monks still in residence, for years the complex has been used primarily by groups as a rental retreat center for meetings or small conferences. The Monastery sits on 1,200 acres along the Pecos River in a mountainous and serene setting. NHEC holds no religious activities at the Institute or Monastery.

Students are competitively selected from across the U.S. and Puerto Rico based on a variety of criteria, including: a minimum 3.0 GPA; science major and academic coursework; demonstrable interest/experience in the environment/natural resources; and diversity. NOTE: as this is a federally-funded program all applicants and selectees must be U.S. Citizens or Legal Permanent Residents. There is no fee to apply and no fee to attend.

With funding from our federal sponsors – the U.S. Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. EPA, and the U.S. Geological Survey -- **NHEC covers all major costs for those students selected to attend.** This includes roundtrip airfare, lodging, meals, local transportation on-site (by chartered bus), science equipment, and more.

NHEC holds 3 Institutes each year -- in California, New York, and New Mexico – usually in the summer but occasionally one in the fall. 30 top STEM students are selected for each Institute.

NHEC is proud to note that for **the last 7 years approximately 65% of the students in each Institute have been female.** This is one way NHEC is working to address the underrepresentation of women in STEM.

Like all NHEC Institutes, NM is an intensive, residential, strongly-science based, 10 day environmental STEM program for top undergraduate college STEM students deeply interested in science and the environment. The Institutes are designed to provide a high-level, high-quality field-science experience.

Each Institute features over 30 science, issue, and career presentations; site visits to and learning at sponsor research facilities, labs, and lands; engagement/mentoring by sponsor staff/scientists participating on-site as role models; and especially hands-on environmental field studies. Students conduct almost daily air, water, and soil testing/monitoring; plant/vegetation inventories; tree mensuration; biological assessments; birding; and more, using professional-grade equipment and instrumentation. Students will conduct field studies at the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests, Bandelier National Park, and other sites.

NHEC's cadre of Instructors (most of whom are past Institute students but now with Masters or Ph.D's), give the presentations, supervise the field studies, engage/mentor the students, and "chart their environmental journey".

To be eligible, students must be pursuing a **science degree in an enviro, natural resource, or agricultural major, and want a related career in this field, especially with federal agencies.**

Overall, NHEC's Institutes are designed **to help build the next generation of diverse/of color scientists/researchers/professionals in environmental and natural resource science fields**, an area within STEM that still remains severely underrepresented for people of color.

Federal facilities participate through site tours; lab experimentation/learning; and scientist engagement/mentorship. These include: the USDA NRCS NM Plant Materials Center/Lab; the USGS NM Water Science Center, Albuquerque Seismological Laboratory; the City of Santa Fe Main Waste Water Treatment Plant; and Abiquiu Dam and Hydroelectric Facility. These sites give students an array of research, instrumentation, and methodologies to see, learn, and experiment on in the lab and field. NHEC also owns/brings science equipment for students' use.

Regarding transportation and logistics: once a student is selected NHEC will quickly call to discuss all travel logistics, typically airfare, for which NHEC must give final approval. NHEC makes all travel arrangements for students. Once in New Mexico, NHEC will transport students to/from each site by chartered bus; provide breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks/water; provide lodging; provide science equipment; and coordinate all logistics/travel.

Also participating are "role models" from NHEC's federal sponsors and other partners. These are environmental professionals/scientists, most in the science/research/technical arena and with Ph.D's, and many are people of color. They are on-site to share information, research, and technology, and engage/mentor/inspire students to continue pursuing their science majors and

careers. This role model component – so students see faces that look like them who actually do environmental science work -- has been a long-standing, vital element of all Institutes.

Students should especially note that **our agency sponsors will be on-site to actively meet/recruit students for a variety of federal opportunities, including jobs, internships, science and research fellowships, and more that are open now and into 2023.**

Further, these agencies are particularly seeking students with majors in a number of high-demand “mission critical occupations” in science. These include: forestry, ecology, biology, hydrology, soil science, civil and environmental engineering, environmental science, chemistry, and more. Students with these majors are especially urged to apply.

HOW TO APPLY INITIALLY

Applicants must first answer the following questions and email NHEC asap. This will give NHEC a solid overview of your eligibility and qualifications, and save you and us time and effort.

Please answer the questions below in the order they are asked:

- 1.-- what college or university do you currently attend and where. (If presently a senior in high school please state that, and what college you will attend next year).
- 2.-- if a senior in high school what school do you currently attend and where? List your last GPA and your planned major in college, next September.
- 3.-- College Students--what is your current GPA?
- 4.-- what is your current major? Please state the full name of the program.
- 5.-- what is your grade level, meaning sophomore, junior, etc?
- 6.--when will you graduate—give month and year.
- 7.-- describe in several paragraphs past and/or present **experiences in the environment**, agric, or natural resources, especially in the sciences or research, that qualify you for the Institute.
- 8.-- describe in several paragraphs past and/or present **academic coursework in the environmental**, natural resources, or agricultural sciences that qualify you for the Institute.
- 9.--describe **which environmental or natural resource issues interest you** the most?
- 10.--describe **your career, academic, and/or research plans/goals after graduation.**
- 11.-- if you have attended an NHEC Institute or program before, state where, when, and which.
- 12.-- what is the closest airport could you fly out of (if airfare is provided) should you be selected? What is the next closest airport?
- 13.-- you understand that the age range for this program is 18—22?
- 14.-- how old are you, and what is your date of birth?
- 15.-- list your race, ethnicity, and/or other demographic information you wish NHEC to know.
- 16.-- are you interested in a potential internship, job or other opportunity in 2023 (especially next summer) with the Institute’s sponsors—U.S. Forest Service, USDA NRCS, U.S. EPA, and USGS. If you have a preference among these agencies, please state.
- 17.-- you understand that only US Citizens or Legal Permanent Residents are eligible for positions with a federal agency?
- 18.-- are you a US Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident? You must state which one.
- 19.-- you understand that only students who are fully Covid vaccinated can be selected?
- 20.-- are you fully Covid vaccinated and can provide the CDC proof-of-vaccination card to NHEC?
- 21.-- provide your home and cell number and email address so NHEC may contact you promptly.

22.-- provide your full home address and current address, for example if residing at college.

NHEC will contact you shortly after receiving your email to further discuss your environmental, natural resource, or agricultural interests, qualifications, and background, **and review the remaining application process. The formal application materials will be sent to you soon after.**

So--if you are passionate about the environment, love science, have a minimum 3.0 GPA, AND been seeking a job or science position in the environmental arena, this program is for you.

SOME COMMON FAQ'S AND ANSWERS

- 1.-- Yes, slots are still available although these are going fast.
2. -- There is no deadline per se. NHEC reviews applications/selects students on a **rolling basis** until all slots are filled. Thus students are strongly urged to apply asap.
- 3.—Yes, you must attend the entire Institute to be funded to the program.
4. -- As this is a federally funded program only U.S. Citizens or Permanent Legal Residents are eligible to attend the Institutes.
- 5.-- While students from underrepresented and communities of color are especially urged to apply, this is a federally funded program, thus students from all ethnic and racial backgrounds, as well as those representing other diversity backgrounds, are eligible to apply.

TO APPLY: email your questionnaire answers to the NHEC Programs Coordinator, Juan Rodriguez, at jrodriguez@nhec1.org and NHEC President Roger Rivera at rrivera@nhec1.org

For questions email or call NHEC at 703-683-3956 or Juan Rodriguez at 703-861-6064. Or see the NHEC website at www.nhec1.org

ABOUT NHEC

The National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) is a national, non-profit membership organization founded in 1998 and based in Alexandria, VA (just outside Washington, D.C). With over 3,000 members, NHEC is the oldest national Latino environmental and natural resource organization in the country, and we advocate for policies and run programs that further our mission.

NHEC seeks to educate and engage Latinos and people of color on environmental and natural resource issues; encourage Latinos and especially students to actively preserve and protect our environment; provide a voice for Latinos before federal and other national environmental decision-makers; and assist our community to pursue the many career, educational, programmatic, and policy opportunities in the environmental and conservation arena. **Our guiding credo is: “....because it’s our environment too”.**

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