

# Dipping into Autonomy: The Other Side of the Student Support Story

Mary Cianflone Romero and Elizabeth Robinson  
University of New Mexico

# The Peer Learning Facilitator Program

- The PLF program was begun in January 2012
- The goal of the grant is inclusive undergraduate success in the science, math, engineering and technology fields
- Most of this is achieved through the use of PLFs who are placed in gateway level math and science courses

# Who are the PLFs?

- Spring 2012 Statistics
  - 27 PLFs total
  - 44% are actual STEM majors
  - Served 10 instructors, teaching a total of 15 sections
  - Worked an average of 10-12 hours per week
  - 59% took a fuller course load (more than 12 credit hours)
  - 16 out of 27 also participated in extracurricular activities

# A Week in the Life of a PLF

- Three hours spent in class
- Two to three spent prepping for class
- Three to five hours spent in office hours helping students
- One hour for weekly meetings with the professor
- One hour for weekly professional development training

## Program Recommendations and Future Initiatives

- More PLF training sessions
  - To boost their knowledge of the grant
  - Familiarize themselves with data from last semester
  - Exposure to more departments on campus
- Goal is to enable them to think outward rather than internalize

# The Spring 2012 PLFs



# STEM Gateway

- STEM Gateway is funded through a \$3.82 million U.S. Department of Education TITLE V grant until the year 2016 and focuses its resources on undergraduate science and math courses that serve as gateways to STEM degrees—those which traditionally have had low success rates. The program which seeks to increase the number of Hispanic and other low-income students attaining STEM degrees, serves as a model for collaboration, course reform, and student success in the STEM fields.
- For more information on the STEM Gateway Program, please contact Mary Cianflone Romero at [mcian@unm.edu](mailto:mcian@unm.edu)