Two UNM seniors majoring in Biology received Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation Awards at the Annual SACNAS National Conference (Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) in Los Angeles, CA, held October 16-18, 2014.

Carol Deaton, a UNM IMSD scholar (Initiative for Maximizing Student Development program), was recognized for her exemplary work in polycystic kidney disease and spectral imaging. The title of her poster presentation was “Epithelial RXFP1 Expression in Models of Inherited Cystic Kidney Disease”; it was presented within the Biological, Agricultural & Environmental Life Sciences category, the sub-discipline with the greatest number of abstracts at the conference. Carol is looking forward to continuing her research in 2015 and applying to Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. programs this fall.

Rosario Marroquin Flores, a UNM McNair Scholar, was recognized for her superb research presentation entitled “Determining Age and Body Size Distribution of Endangered North Pacific Loggerhead Turtles (Caretta caretta) and East Pacific Green Turtles (Chelonia mydas) at an East Pacific Bycatch Hotspot,” presented in the Marine Sciences category. The research stems from an REU (Research Opportunities for Undergraduates) project that she conducted through the SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow) program at University of California, San Diego. Rosario plans to continue her ecology research after graduation and is applying to Ph.D. programs with an eye on turtle research.

The awards were determined based on scores provided by mentor–judges and the collective recommendations of all judges within each sub-discipline.