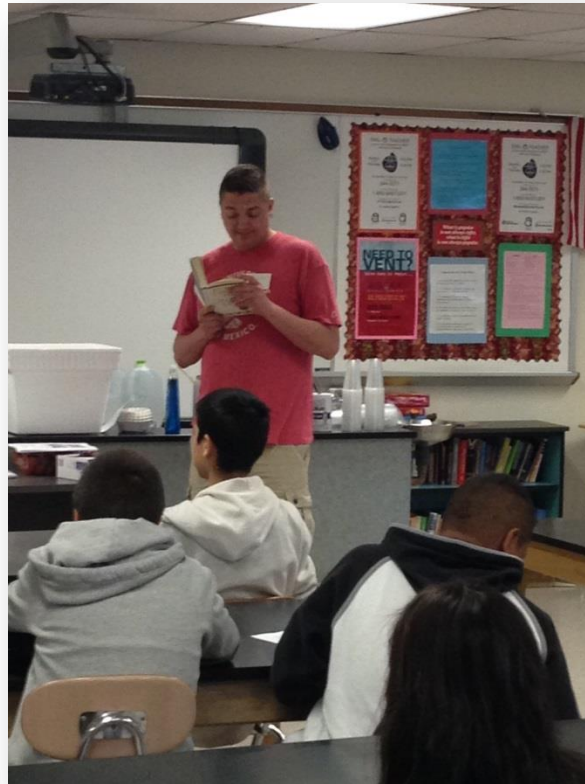


## UNM Department of Biology Brings Science to the Middle Schools

On Tuesday, April 8, 2014, UNM Department of Biology Ph.D. candidate Jason Kimble extracted DNA from strawberries with students at Wilson Middle School's Science Day (Photo 1). Jason was one of many professionals who shared with these students what it is like to work in the sciences. The kids prepared a mixture of strawberries, water, salt and soap and added cold alcohol to it to separate out the DNA. Students loved touching the slimy, stretchy material (Photo 2).

Jason gained teaching experience as an undergraduate in the UNM Department of Biology class taught by UNM faculty and Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) staff. In this class (Biol. 408/508L), undergraduate and graduate students learn about the forest along the Rio Grande (referred to as the bosque) and mentor K-12 students from Española to Socorro in collecting scientific data in the field each month.



**Photo 1: UNM Department of Biology Ph. D. candidate Jason Kimble reads from Richard Dawkins' *The Selfish Gene*.**



**Photo 2: A Wilson Middle School student investigates the extracted DNA.**