

Emerging Scholars Grant Progress Report

SPRING 2025 EMERGING SCHOLARS PROGRAM | HEST.NMSU.EDU



Overview

Four Emerging Scholars awardees submitted progress reports for Spring 2025, representing diverse research initiatives spanning education technology, sports psychology, biomechanics, and public health. All project PIs demonstrated significant progress toward their stated objectives, with strong preliminary outcomes and meaningful student engagement.

Program Summaries

Melissa Warr – Empowering Educators to Challenge Inequity through Critical AI Practices

Focus: Critical pedagogy approaches to addressing racial bias in generative AI for secondary educators

Key Achievements:

- Secured additional \$100,000 Spencer Foundation grant, extending project through 2026
- Recruited 116 teacher applicants, with 16 confirmed for June 2-6, 2025 workshop
- Established partnerships with local school districts
- Delivered 10 presentations and published peer-reviewed work on theoretical foundations
- Developed prototype AI bias detection tool

Budget Status: \$9,914 allocated; spending begins with June workshop

Katie Hirsch – A Comparison of Preferences for Formal and Informal Athlete Leaders

Focus: Mixed-methods study of university athletes' preferences of informal leadership behaviors

Key Achievements:

- Phase 1 data collection ongoing: 197 athletes accessed survey, 129 retained for analysis
- Trained undergraduate researcher who presented at URCAS conference
- Completed PI Academy training and identified future NCAA grant opportunities
- Established collaborations with NMSU Athletics Department

Budget Status: \$960 spent, \$8,995.93 remaining.

Alyssa Vanderlinden – Investigating Motor and Cognitive Dual-Tasks in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Focus: Biomechanical analysis of gait patterns in children with ASD during dual-task conditions

Key Achievements:

- Collected data from 21 participants (15 ASD, 6 neurotypical) since March 2025
- Exceeded expected recruitment pace at 4-5 participants weekly
- Mentored undergraduate students who won "Outstanding Poster - STEM Award" at URCAS
- Established partnership with NMSU Autism Diagnostic Center

Budget Status: \$2,189.61 spent; \$7,802.39 remaining

Bea Ade-Oshifogun – Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessment for Latino Immigrants

Focus: Developing culturally sensitive intimate partner violence assessment tools

Key Achievements:

- Recruited interdisciplinary team including nursing and computer science faculty
- Conducted 18 interviews from 40 recruited participants across six communities
- Adapted methodology from focus groups to individual interviews due to community concerns
- Manuscript in development for fall 2025 submission

Budget Status: \$9,081.88 spent; \$918.12 remaining

Emerging Scholars Grant Progress Report

SPRING 2025 EMERGING SCHOLARS PROGRAM | HEST.NMSU.EDU



Cross-Project Themes

Student Development

All projects demonstrate significant undergraduate and graduate student involvement. Students presented research at conferences, gained hands-on experience, and developed professional skills. Notable achievements include URCAS awards and leadership opportunities.

Community Engagement

Project involve partnerships on and off campus. These partnerships include local school districts, immigrant communities across Southern New Mexico, NMSU's Athletics Department, and the NMSU Autism Diagnostic Center.

Publication and Dissemination

Recipients are actively sharing findings through peer-reviewed publications, interactive websites and tools, conference presentations, and community workshops, ensuring research impact beyond academic circles.



Challenges and Adaptations

Awardees encountered and overcame several challenges:

- Recruitment modifications due to political climate concerns
- Language barriers requiring additional bilingual staff
- Timeline adjustments based on faster-than-expected data collection
- Resource reallocation as student circumstances changed

Key Takeaways

All projects are positioned for continued success with clear trajectories toward completion. Potential outcomes include peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, policy recommendations, and therapeutic intervention development. Awardees have achieved various milestones to date, including publication, student presentations, professional development, and acquiring additional grant funding.