New Mexico Space Grant Consortium (NMSGC) is a member of the congressionally funded National Space Grant College and Fellowship. The lead institution is New Mexico State University with partners across the state including New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, University of New Mexico, San Juan College, Dona Ana Community College, White Sands Test Facility, White Sands Missile Range, Physical Science Laboratory, Jacobs Technology, X Prize Foundation, numerous public schools, museums and communities.

The mission of NMSGC is to advance the economic, education, and scientific benefits of space related endeavors in New Mexico. The Consortium promotes and inspires lifelong learning in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as it pertains to space related activities. All funds are used to support aerospace related research, education, outreach, scholarships, fellowships, summer internships, and related opportunities for students and faculty throughout New Mexico. A sample of NMSGC 2006 programs include:

**Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunities**
- A Separation by Centrifugal Distillation (NMSU)
- Effects of Ultrasonic Waves on Gas Evolution During Electrolysis (UNM)

**Student Scholarships**
- NASA Academy
- JPL Summer Internship
- Statewide UG and Grad. Scholarships

**Aerospace Engineering Distance Education - Curriculum Development**
- Site based Distance Education courses developed by NMSU, initiated by NMSGC, for 19 employees from the NASA Johnson - White Sands Test Facility

**NMSGC & NMSU create International Symposium for Personal Spaceflight**
- 2 day conference
- Over 300 attendees from across the globe - first event of the X Prize Cup

**NMSGC funded student experiment on first launch from Spaceport America**
- September 25, 2006
- 11 payloads, including one from NMSU to measure rocket flight performance: flight computer, earth sensor, magnetic field meter

**GRASP Program (Gaining Retention and Achievement for Students Program)**
- NSF funding for student retention
- 18 faculty from Dona Ana Community College participating

Astronaut Speakers & Space Grant Director at International Symposium for Personal Spaceflight

First launch at Spaceport America
September 25, 2006
Testimonials

Research & Society of Women Engineers Meet at Space Grant

“The experience acquired during my work with NMSGC helped me to start a new research program. The major direction of my new research is laser propulsion. Our newly built lab has four research lasers & a lot of supporting equipment, a net worth of $250,000. The lab facilities also include a unique 60 ft high vertical shaft, where we are planning to launch our lightcrafts. All these exciting new developments would be hardly possible without initial research funding from Space Grant.”

(Andrew Pakhomov, Physics Professor, NMHU)

Teaching

“Our microgravity flight enabled me to do my best teaching ever. It freed me to focus on discovery learning, science content, & generate new knowledge. Our flights brought a renewal of energy to my teaching that still endures years later.” (Dave Westphal, physics professor & NMIM&T Space Grant campus director; lead scientist, Magdalena Ridge Observatory; collaborating scientist, National Radio Astronomy Observatory & Very Large Array)

Higher Education Students

“I will be forever grateful to NASA and NMSGC for giving me the opportunity to work at JPL. I highly recommend this experience to anyone with a passion for space exploration.” (Matthew King, NMSU electrical engineering student, spent the summer at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) working on the a Cerebellum-Augmented Inertial-Navigation Rover (CAR).

Space Grant Building Houses X PRIZE Office

“NMSU is focusing it's efforts in providing students and faculty educational opportunities including co-hosting the International Symposium on Personal Spaceflight during the X PRIZE CUP events in October.” (Dr. Hynes, Director of New Mexico Space Grant)

General Public

The quality of presenters at Symposium was great. We had great panels with concentrations of “movers and shakers” which gave the little guy a forum to participate in the new “space field.” (International Symposium for Personal Spaceflight participant)