



IDEAL-NM Student Honored

Cuba High School student Zach Herrera was honored as an Academic Athlete at the New Mexico Stars Align for Innovating Education ceremony held at the Governor's Mansion November 14, 2008.

Only 21 New Mexico students were selected from such programs as RoboRave International, Science Engineering Math and Aerospace Academy, Project Lead the Way, Growing Up Thinking Scientifically, and the New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge.

Zach was recognized for his work in assisting his fellow students with their online chemistry courses. He makes it a point to work with his online teacher in studying the lessons in advance so he can then help his peers during the day.

"Zach is a great role model for online students," remarked Dr. Tim Snyder, IDEAL-NM Executive Director. "He not only excels at his own work, but goes to great lengths to help other students succeed."

Dr. Reed Dasenbrock, Cabinet Secretary for the Higher Education Department, and Dr. Veronica García, Cabinet Secretary for the Public Education Department, personally congratulated Zach and all the honorees.

Dr. Snyder noted that Zach's principal, Felix Garcia, and his online chemistry teacher, Ruth Shields, are themselves innovators in facilitating 21st century learning tools to today's students.

Congratulations to Zach, his parents, his principal and his teachers!