

CLASS OF FALL 2022

*Outstanding Graduates*

**JILLIAN HUGHES – College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences**

*“Earning my degree closes the most influential chapter of my life, granting me the education and, more importantly, the experience needed to help improve livestock agriculture.”*

Jillian Hughes will receive a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Animal Science, with minors in Human-Animal Interaction and Dairy Science. A highly motivated student with a passion for animals, she is eager to use her degree to explore careers related to animal health and husbandry.

Jillian received NMSU's Presidential Scholarship from 2018 through 2020 and the Lottery Scholarship from 2018 through 2022. For the last two years, she has worked in Dr. Ryan Ashley's lab, studying placental development and dysfunction in more than 100 sheep. She presented her research involving immune function in placental development at NMSU's Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts Symposium (URCAS), the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) National meeting and Western Section meeting. At the ASAS National meeting, she won the Undergraduate Research Poster competition.

As an ambassador for NMSU's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Jillian represented the university at high schools, fairs and college events throughout New Mexico and Texas. As a mentor, she guided a dozen incoming freshmen and transferring sophomores in their first semester at NMSU. She was also a member of the committee for this year's ACES Branding Ceremony.

Jillian completed three internships while at NMSU. The first was at a large cat sanctuary in Bridgeport, Texas, participating in all areas of animal husbandry for more than 50 animals. She also completed an internship as a dog trainer for a local Herding Training Facility, where she continues to volunteer. Her third internship was as a Session I student at the U.S. Education and Training Consortium (USDETC) in Clovis, NM, learning about the local and national dairy industry from industry experts.

Following graduation, Jillian will apply to graduate school after completing an internship at the University of Idaho's Nancy M. Cummings Research, Extension, and Education Center. Her goal is to work in research and development for international animal health organizations to help shape the way livestock producers breed and care for animals.