CLASS OF 2025

Outstanding Graduate

"My NMSU degree provides me with the skills to tackle real-world challenges and inspires me to shape a better future for all."

EMILIA MARMOLEJO

Graduate School, Master's

Emilia Marmolejo '22 is graduating with a Master of Science in civil engineering, a concentration in geotechnical engineering, and a 3.968 GPA. Her B.S. in civil engineering is also from NMSU.

Born and raised in Las Cruces, she grew up attending Aggie sporting events and had no doubt she'd be an Aggie herself when she decided to be an engineer. "As an engineer, I knew I could learn about how the world works and solve real-world problems that have a meaningful effect on society." Emilia's interest in geotechnology was fostered by Dr. Paola Bandini, who says Emilia "has an impeccable reputation among fellow students, faculty, and staff."

Her master's thesis, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Engineering Research Center, explored the use of a plant-based biogeotechnical soil amendment that mitigates erosion. Her work literally has global implications regarding infrastructure such as highways, bridges, and stormwater control. Emilia has published and presented on her work across the country, including at the 104th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Board of the National Academies in Washington, D.C.

Emilia has been a leader in both academia and the community. An officer for the NSF's Center for Bio-mediated and Bio-inspired Geotechnics (CBBG) Student Leadership Council, she was one of four invited student panelists when the Congressional Hispanic Caucus brought former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to campus. In the community, as part of CBBG she visits local schools to talk about her research and engineering as a career, adjusting her interactive presentations based on grade level.

At NMSU, Emilia learned to "think critically about what I do and how I think about things," and says, "you never know what you might learn from someone else." She's continuing at NMSU for a Ph.D. in civil engineering. "Although I'll be starting a new project, I'll continue working on innovation in sustainable engineering practices and bio-inspired foundation design."