

## CLASS OF 2025

# *Outstanding Graduate*



### REBEKAH PASE

#### College of Engineering

Rebekah Pase is “the strongest Bachelor of Science Civil Engineering graduate we’ve had in our department in the last several years,” says Dr. Craig Newtonson.

Originally from Maryland, Rebekah’s mother grew up in Las Cruces (her parents met at NMSU) and one of her aunts also has an NMSU civil engineering degree.

**“My NMSU degree taught me to solve problems, ask questions, and believe in myself — it’s been my most rewarding journey yet.”**

Because of her exceptional academics, Dr. Newtonson brought Rebekah onto a challenging Nuclear Regulatory Commission-funded project simulating high temperature events in concrete structures in nuclear facilities. “This work would normally require a doctoral student,” Dr. Newtonson says, but none were available. “Rebekah had to get up to speed on the most demanding topic in structural engineering as an undergraduate.”

Her work led Dr. Newtonson to also hire her for a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation project using compounds from brine in desalination plants for more sustainable cement and concrete production. Dr. Newtonson notes that “In this work, Rebekah developed several cement paste mixtures with drastically reduced carbon footprints.”

She has also been a tutor in the Engineering Learning Communities and a research assistant. However, Rebekah is proudest of participating in the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers as a leader and as a member of the steel bridge and concrete canoe teams. She also spearheaded the ASCE 2025 Hult Prize team, which advanced to the national competition in Boston. “Getting advice from ASCE students a little bit ahead of me brought me confidence and a broader perspective of what it means to be a civil engineer. For me, being president was my way of helping the next generation find their footing, too.”

In her spare time, Rebekah runs, cycles, and paints, and she will remain at NMSU for a master’s degree in civil engineering. After that, she plans to work for a structural design firm. “Keeping structures intact and improving upon them is a way to conserve history and culture and makes things more sustainable for the future.” ▲