

## CLASS OF 2025

# *Outstanding Graduate*



### KIANA LYNN RIVERA

College of Agricultural, Consumer  
and Environmental Sciences

Kiana Lynn Rivera is graduating with a B.S. in animal science and minors in chemistry and horse management. According to Dr. Shanna Ivey, "Kiana has been one of the shining stars in our department. She is the type of student who excels in our program because she wants to learn and make an impact in her community."

**"The supportive NMSU community and my professors inspired and empowered me to learn, lead, and make meaningful contributions."**

Her family's heartbreak at the death of a family dog prompted Kiana to consider veterinary medicine as a career. While studying at NMSU, she gravitated toward ruminant (hoofed animals with multiple stomachs) nutrition and soon became a valued research assistant in the ruminant nutrition laboratory working with Ph.D. and master's students. Kiana also conducted her own research, evaluating in-vitro ruminal degradation of red

chile byproducts compared to alfalfa hay and presenting this research at several symposiums, including one in Puerto Rico before USDA and industry leaders.

Throughout her senior year, Kiana mentored other students as an undergraduate teaching assistant. She spent summer 2024 as a USDA research intern at the C. Oran Little Research Center at the University of Kentucky, working alongside students and professionals, completing research certifications, and helping train other students. In summer 2025, she gained hands-on clinical experience at two veterinary practices in Santa Fe.

Kiana has many accomplishments of which to be proud, but says, "My greatest accomplishment isn't tied to a single achievement, but rather the growth I've experienced through the academics, experiences, and opportunities I embraced."

In her spare time, Kiana enjoys being with her family as much as possible: "I wouldn't be where or who I am today if it wasn't for my family's support and encouragement." She also enjoys camping, reading, and church activities.

After graduation, Kiana plans to complete a master's in animal science at NMSU and then go to veterinary school, eventually pursuing a career as a mixed-practice veterinarian in northern New Mexico. ▲