

# *NMSU students work to spark innovation, shape new future*

**By Brendan P. Sullivan**

*Guest column*

An undercurrent of student support is creating huge ripples across the American landscape, reshaping daily notions of innovation and entrepreneurship. This support is accompanied with a version of the American dream that embraces the intellect cultivated through the diversity of our campuses, creating a system that inspires every human being to be their very best. As this undercurrent traverses our campuses, students are slowly being reshaped into polished stones leaving behind grains of sand to shape those who follow.

Innovation is contagious, and at New Mexico State University the movement is gaining momentum. As a state that shares its name with our NAFTA partner to the south, everything we do is compared to a historical transition in our cultural legacy. However, as we come together to shape the future, we stand not to differentiate ourselves from our past, but rather to build on our cultural legacy to create something new, something strong, and something unique. As students, we serve as agents of change who have begun to break down barriers to innovation, and in the wake, we are creating an inclusive environment for every student on our campus.

Across the country, we have seen the rebranding of innovation and the development of high-power centers that are able to harness the collective strength of large populations. It was once said that we the people have the power: the power

to create machines and the power to create happiness. Today, I look at the contributions of our predecessors who were at the forefront of change, and believe as students, we are well positioned to leverage their contributions by harnessing the power of innovation to create a vibrant future for our state.

In New Mexico, where resources and people are limited, we see the criteria for success differently. While larger cities, states, and institutions are able to pool together a wealth of resources, at New Mexico State University we believe that the dedicated work of a passionate student body can provide the groundwork for greater excellence. Although we may lack the size of other institutions

**Innovation is contagious, and at New Mexico State University the movement is gaining momentum. As a state that shares its name with our NAFTA partner to the south, everything we do is compared to a historical transition in our cultural legacy.**

across the country, this does not make us weak, because our students are grounded and well united, and while alone we are small, we are quick and nimble. We can shift our paths, engage students and invoke permanent change faster than our larger partners. Resources are limited, but that makes every dollar we pull together worth that much more, as it represents the unwavering commitment that we as innovators possess through hard work. New Mexico has long been referred to as the land of mañana, but today we look toward tomorrow with optimism and inspiration because we know we are part of something bigger than us all.

This fall, New Mexico State University is working to open its very first satellite student business incubator, which through tireless hours of work by many on campus, is expected to double the number of students on campus with direct access to innovation. This effort is reflected in the words that were so eloquently stated by Robert Kennedy, "Few have the greatness to bend history itself; each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total; of all those acts will be written the history of this generation." At New Mexico State University, history will live up to the legacy of America, sending a message to everyone that through innovation and interaction we can make huge changes in the world.

---

*Brendan P. Sullivan as an Epicenter University Innovation Fellow graduate student in Industrial Engineering at New Mexico State University.*