College of Art and Sciences
Department of Mathematical Sciences

February 10, 2010

I’m writing to you because our universities are in neighboring states with large Hispanic populations and I suspect that there are some ASU undergraduate math majors who would do well in the graduate program at NMSU. We presently have several open positions for departmentally supported Graduate Assistants (Master’s and Ph.D.) at NMSU for the class entering in Fall 2010 and we are particularly eager to consider applications from your students.

NMSU is the only Land Grant University that is a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). As such, we have access to federal funding opportunities for Minority Institutions and have been successful in gaining support for students from agencies that have a special interest in increasing the representation of minorities in mathematics oriented careers. For example, current and former graduate students have been supported by NSF (Bridge to the Doctorate Program), NSA (through the National Physical Sciences Consortium), the US Dept. of Education ( Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program), and the Physical Sciences laboratory on the NMSU campus.

The department’s faculty research represents nearly all of the major areas of mathematics and statistics, and there are active seminars in all of them. In addition, the graduate student organization holds its own weekly seminar. The atmosphere in the department is intimate and informal, and students get a lot of personal attention. For details about our department and programs, I refer you to the department web page (http://www.math.nmsu.edu).

The Las Cruces area boasts a remarkable ethnic diversity, blending Hispanic, Native American and Anglo cultures. The high desert provides an excellent climate and year round opportunities for outdoor recreation; the majestic Organ Mountains are a mere 6 miles from campus, skiing 2 hours away, and the Gila Wilderness 3 hours. Cultural activities, including musical performances and theater, are abundant here and in nearby El Paso, Texas.
I would be grateful if you would pass this information on to your students and their advisors, along with the invitation to contact me directly by phone or email for further information.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

David Finston
Professor of Mathematics
dfinston@nmsu.edu
575-646-2637