

CLASS OF 2024  
*Outstanding Graduate*



**IRWIN YONATHAN RAMIREZ DIAZ**

College of Health, Education and  
Social Transformation

Irwin Yonathan Ramirez Diaz will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. A Crimson Scholar and HEST Honors student, Yonathan was recently invited to join Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, Yonathan grew up in a rural orphanage. During middle school he took his first biology class, and the anatomy topics were a revelation that “the body is a perfect machine.”

When Yonathan came to the United States in 2019, he spoke no English. As a nursing student at the University of Chihuahua, he had already graduated and worked for two years as a nurse; however, because he entered nursing school through an advanced high school program, he did not receive a high school diploma, and had to repeat the nursing program in the U.S.

**“NMSU Nursing faculty taught me that caring for others and making a difference in someone’s life goes beyond any language.”**

—Irwin Yonathan  
Ramirez Diaz

A teaching assistantship with Assistant Professor Sharon Davidson opened many opportunities for Yonathan—not only academic and clinical, but also helping his fellow students. He became a mentor, especially for international students, and a tutor, frequently observed in the lounge with a whiteboard full of information, reviewing content with nursing students. At NMSU Yonathan has twice been a guest lecturer, and as a nurse in Mexico he presented twice at conferences.

He takes great pride in the nursing he did in Mexico, often working with marginalized patients who, when discharged, went back to life on the street. Here, he has volunteered during his clinical rotations to work with patients who do not speak English: “They are scared, and I want them to feel that someone cares for them.”

Yonathan says he becomes emotional when he thinks about the impact that NMSU Nursing faculty have had on his life. His long-term goal is to become a nurse educator and work to increase the percentage of Hispanic nurses (currently 9% nationwide). After he graduates, however, Yonathan will begin a highly competitive position in the Surgical Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. ▲