

CLASS OF 2023

Outstanding Graduate



KAYLA MOEHN

College of Arts and Sciences

Being an Aggie is a tradition in Kayla Moehn's family. Kayla attended high school in Albuquerque, but followed in the footsteps of her parents, cousins, aunts, and uncles—all of whom are Aggie alum.

Kayla will graduate with two bachelor's degrees, one in genetics and the other in philosophy, plus minors in chemistry and biochemistry. Her majors reflect her desire to have a humanities major to complement her science-heavy background and provide other types of academic challenges and perspectives.

Her research focused on how chronic stress might impair hormone receptors that impact lifelong vocal learning, using budgerigars (parakeets) as models. Here at NMSU, Kayla has also worked as a Building Research Achievement in Neuroscience (BRAIN) research scholar and as a research assistant on a National Institutes of Health-funded research program. External to NMSU, she participated in Research Experiences

for Undergraduates (REUs) at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center and a National Science Foundation-funded neuroscience program at Princeton University.

Kayla has also been involved with the NMSU Philosophy Club, held positions in student government and served as an election worker. Finally—rare for an undergraduate—she was a teaching assistant for a section of the introductory biology course.

After graduation, Kayla heads to the University of Michigan for a Ph.D. program in biomedical sciences with a concentration in neuroscience. What the future holds after that Kayla doesn't know, but she emphasizes that in whatever career she chooses, she wants to continue being a mentor, teacher and researcher. ▲

“As a lifelong New Mexican and proud Aggie, I hope to share the culture and hospitality of our wonderful state by being an outstanding mentor, leader and scientist”

—Kayla Moehn