

CLASS OF 2023
Outstanding Graduate



SYLVIA XIMENA PORRAS
College of Business

First-generation college student Sylvia Ximena Porrás moved from Chihuahua, Mexico, to Hatch, New Mexico when Sylvia was in third grade. Her father worked in construction and her mother worked in agriculture, as did Sylvia when she turned 16.

Sylvia took courses online at Doña Ana Community College during high school, and during her junior year, representatives from the NMSU TRIO Upward Bound program visited her high school to introduce students to college financial aid and admissions processes. They also introduced students to the NMSU College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), which recruits students from migrant agricultural families and offers various support services. Sylvia was one of 30 students accepted into CAMP, which made her dream of attending NMSU possible.

“Through CAMP, I can now show other agricultural migrant high schoolers that, with the right resources, any future they imagine is possible”

—Sylvia Ximena Porrás

Sylvia says most of her opportunities on campus were thanks to CAMP and is grateful for the guidance and encouragement she received throughout her studies from College of Business faculty members. Now, Sylvia will graduate as a Crimson Scholar with a double major in economics and international business. While at NMSU, she took part in a research project through Michigan State University, and she also served as a research assistant for a course in energy economics research methodology and interned at Sandia National Laboratories.

In addition to being a college student ambassador, she was vice president for the CAMP Student Council. She was inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma international business honor society and received multiple NMSU awards, including the Hadley Honors Scholarship.

After graduation, Sylvia will attend the American Economic Association Summer Program at Howard University and then begin a Master of Science in Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University. Whatever her future career, she knows it will relate to immigration and the economies of developing nations. ▲