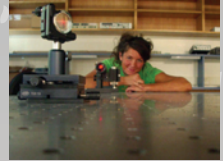




The Magdalena Ridge Observatory (MRO) and New Mexico Tech (NMT) provide opportunities in practical research and development for NMT students during their academic careers. From 1998 through 2011, over 70 NMT students studying physics, mathematics, computer science, engineering, and technical communication at the undergraduate and graduate levels have worked at MRO in a variety of capacities.

Student projects at MRO have spanned multiple fields of study including:

- Optical design and instrumentation
- Software engineering and information technology
- Mechanical and electrical engineering
- Astronomy and astronomical data reduction



Specific student projects for the 2.4-meter telescope and Interferometer (MROI) include:

- Sub-system monitoring infrastructure
- Automated alignment system design and alignment algorithm development
- Environmental monitoring system
- Aperture masking instrument



During the Enchanted Skies Star Party—an annual fall event hosted by NMT, MRO, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Socorro Chamber of Commerce, and Bureau of Land Management—NMT students can participate in observations at the MRO remote site and at the NMT Frank T. Etscorn Campus Observatory. Once in full operation, the telescopes will also be available to undergraduate and graduate students.

MRO attracts highly motivated and diverse students with a graduation rate of over 90% for students who participated at MRO.

Many MRO students have remained with the program after graduation and are developing their professional careers with the observatory. Others gain valuable practical experience that provides a foundation for advanced degrees or for a career in a variety of scientific fields.

FOR QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT DR. IFAN PAYNE, MRO PROGRAM DIRECTOR
INFO@MRO.NMT.EDU TEL 575 835-6431



Students & Education

