



Nano-engineering and Solar Cell Students Make Big Splash at the 2013 State Fair

By Stefi Weisburd - September 13, 2013



CHTM Engineering students invited fairgoers to experiment with Nanoscience and Photovoltaic hands-on demonstrations during Science and Technology Day at the State Fair, September 13, 2013. K-12 students, their teachers and families and the general public played with hydrophobic sand, ferrofluids, nano-size gold particles and polymers. The activities show how small structures at the nanometer-level (1 billionth of a meter) can have a huge effect in our everyday macroscopic world. These innovative nano-structured materials are being studied at UNM and elsewhere for everything from healthier, more targeted cancer treatments to inexpensive, flexible batteries.



When an unusual rain let up and New Mexico's resilient sun emerged, fairgoers also played with solar-powered race cars, fans and bugs. They learned how research at CHTM is improving the efficiency and cost of photovoltaic cells, and how engineers are working on ways to integrate renewable energy systems into a smart grid.



The undergraduate and graduate students at the fair study under two of CHTM's three National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center grants: Nanomanufacturing Systems for Mobile Computing and Mobile Energy Technologies (NASCENT) and Quantum Energy and Sustainable Solar Technology (QESST).

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