

# SCENES FROM THE 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NHEC CONFERENCE

**April 5–8, 2003**

**Albuquerque, NM**



The Conference offers students the opportunity to attend a range of “environmental site tours”, including national parks, forests, laboratories, and other facilities. Held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the conference, these day-long tours give students an in-depth look into a variety of environmental, natural resource, and historical/cultural issues. The tours are a popular and very educational part of the Conference. Here, students at Pecos National Monument, managed by the National Park Service.



Another site tour: students at the Cibola National Forest, near Albuquerque, run by the U.S. Forest Service. Students often select the site tour that match their majors in college, or, sometimes pick tours that show them something completely different from their chosen profession, in order to broaden their environmental knowledge.



Here, students at a waste water treatment plant outside Santa Fe. Through the site tours, students can see the many facets of the environment, including its “green and brown side”.



Gauges and pumping equipment that regulate the treatment facility. The site tours offer an in-depth look into the technology, tools, and policies of environmental, natural resource, energy, or agricultural management.

## SCENES FROM THE 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NHEC CONFERENCE



Conference attendees can attend over 30 workshops and general sessions. These feature top experts discussing a broad range of environmental, energy, agricultural, natural resource, and cultural issues. Here, NHEC Board member Dr. Eddie Laboy moderates a workshop.



The workshops get crowded! Cutting edge topics and issue experts draw attendees.



Attendees at one of the large “general sessions” at the Conference.



A Conference goal is to provide a place for Latino/ minority environmental professionals and students to interact, network, and exchange ideas. Here, a “Student Meet and Greet” reception.



The meal events feature senior officials from environmental agencies, etc. as keynote speakers. Here, attendees at the Conference Luncheon.



NHEC President Roger Rivera speaking to Conference attendees at one of the major meal events. Seated is NHEC Board Member Dr. Virgilio Minino, and at far right, Chairman Manuel Hernandez.

## SCENES FROM THE 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NHEC CONFERENCE



Each year, NHEC gives awards to distinguished individuals who have made a significant contribution to the environment, and/or to advance the interests of minorities in the environment. Here, Roger Rivera presents an award to Zenaida Mendez, past Coordinator of the National People of Color Environmental Justice Summit.



Daniel Garza, Dept. Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Interior, speaks after receiving his Leadership Award from NHEC at the Banquet.



Some NHEC students, awardees, and Board members at the Conference Awards Banquet.



Some members of the NHEC Board of Directors. The Board provides invaluable guidance and service to NHEC.



Roger Rivera, Manuel Hernandez, and other NHEC members at the entrance to the Career Fair. The Career Fair occurs on the last day of the Conference.

## SCENES FROM THE 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NHEC CONFERENCE



Students at the Career Fair. With funding provided by sponsors and others, NHEC offers a “travel scholarship” to college students from every conceivable environmental discipline to attend the Conference. These scholarships cover all conference costs. Depending upon funding, each year NHEC provides from 175 – 250 scholarships to top students from across the U.S. and Puerto Rico.



The National Park Service is a strong supporter of NHEC, including serving as a “Major Conference Sponsor” for the last 6 years. Like other recruiters at the Conference, NPS interviews students on-site and often makes on-the-spot hires.



Students at the U.S. EPA exhibit, another strong NHEC supporter and a “Major Conference Sponsor” for the last 6 years.



The Career Fair is a major part of the Conference. Recruiters from the public, private, and non-profit sectors come to meet some of our community’s best and brightest environmental students. Here, students can find jobs, internships, scholarships, research opportunities, and more.

## SCENES FROM THE 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NHEC CONFERENCE



The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service has also been a strong supporter and a major conference sponsor.



The recruiting team from the U.S. Forest Service, ready to rumble! The Service is a strong supporter of NHEC and a major conference sponsor. At left, Roger Rivera and Manuel Hernandez.



Companies with environmental needs also attend the Exhibit Area/Career Fair. Here, recruiters from GE interview students.



The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is looking for its next employees!



Dr. Francisco Tomei-Torres, with the CDC/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and a major conference sponsor, talks to students about opportunities at his agency.



The U.S. Geological Survey is another conference sponsor. As the “science agency” for the Interior Dept., they seek candidates from a wide range of environmental professions.