

Community College Students Study Reservoir Using Computer Visualization

Outcome: Mesalands Community College students study sedimentation in the Conchas Reservoir using tools developed by the Western Consortium for Watershed Analysis, Visualization and Exploration (WC-WAVE). These students gain hands-on experience with all aspects of mapping underwater terrain.

Impact/Benefits: Results from this research will help inform future work by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Conchas Dam, including their work to understand the effects of drought and flood on sedimentation. To help convey the concepts of sedimentation to the public, a display has been made available to visitors at the Mesaland's Dinosaur Museum.



Photo: Mesalands Community College students Nikki Vazquez and Sanda Garrett working with Army Corps Engineer Nadine Carter to study reservoirs.

Explanation: This research is performed using tools from the Western Consortium for Watershed Analysis, Visualization and Exploration (WC-WAVE). WC-WAVE is a collaborative program among researchers from many different disciplines in Idaho, Nevada, and New Mexico that seeks to create a Virtual Watershed simulation to more efficiently model and understand actual watershed dynamics. Under the guidance of instructor Gretchen Gurtler, community college students are actively involved in meaningful research in their communities.

Photos provided by Natalie Willoughby, New Mexico EPSCoR, nrogers@epscor.unm.edu