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February 20, 2017.

Dear Members of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico,

This is both a secondary "thank you" and year-end report associated with the funds you donated to the Department of Biology Herbarium at New Mexico State University in 2016. Your generous dollars were applied to the salary for our outstanding undergraduate assistant, Ms. Megan Stovall. Megan has been a tremendous asset to the herbarium, helping us in all day to day activities.

Your generosity employing Megan has also resulted in her continuing here at NMSU for graduate training. She has started working with Dr. Nicole Petrasiak studying photosynthetic cryptobiotic soil crusts of the southwest – an incredible and understudied element of our biological communities. Megan is already contributing amazing new samples to the herbarium and her work will ultimately result in a considerable expansion of our knowledge of these important soil communities in New Mexico.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the NPSNM for their support over many years. That support is partially responsible for NMSU hiring our first full-time herbarium curator, Dr. Sara Fuentes. Since her start date in January, Sara has made considerable headway getting a handle on our collections. She is particularly working toward merging our two herbaria into one well integrated collection that will better facilitate research, service, and outreach.

Once again, thank you for your support and I wish you all the best for 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donovan Bailey', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Donovan Bailey
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