

## El Valle Hispanic News

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### New Mexican woman receives national award

In February, The Corps Network, a Washington, DC-based advocacy and membership association for conservation corps, recognized Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) participant Yvette Chischillie as a Corpsmember of the Year. One of five award recipients and selected among more than 23,000 corpsmembers nationwide, Chischillie received her award in an official ceremony on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, Feb. 13th. She was congratulated by First Lady Laura Bush on Feb. 12.

Chischillie, the first young person from her hometown of Navajo, N.M. to join the SCC, came to the program as a corpsmember in 2002 on a residential public lands crew. She returned the following summer for another stint, and then joined SCC's Crew Leader Development Program in 2006. SCC quickly promoted her to Crew Leader where she ran SCC's signature Wildfire

Prevention Program.

"Corps programs are amazing programs that make a difference for young people from all backgrounds and all parts of the country," said Harry Bruell, executive director of the SCC.

"Yvette's story shows the power of a corps in reaching a remote part of America and unleashing the incredible assets, skills and abilities of an extraordinary young woman."

In February, Chischillie traveled to Washington D.C. to receive her award. Prior to leaving her home in New Mexico, she said, "I plan and hope to share my experience with other young adults in making a difference to people, the environment and the movement of helping others."

#### Southwest Conservation Corps

Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) employs a diverse group of young men and women to support its mission of completing important conservation projects on public lands. Founded in 1998 to continue the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s, SCC's employment and educational projects are sponsored primarily by land management agencies and municipalities throughout the southwest region of the U.S. The organization is headquartered in Durango, Colo. with locations in Alamosa, Colo. and Tucson, Ariz. For more information, visit [www.sccorps.org](http://www.sccorps.org).