COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of Introduction to STEM, Univ 175, is to help students decide whether they would like to pursue an STEM degree through a description of the possible professions, orientation to STEM education, develop skills to further successful academic and professional careers and to foster a camaraderie amongst students with similar interests.

COURSE MATERIALS: Paper, pencil, scientific calculator, flash drive and 3-ring binder (These items may be shared with other classes.)

Grading Scale (Note: + and – of grades are possible but only if of benefit to the student)

A 90 – 100%
B 80 – 89%
C 70–79%
D 60–69%
F < 59%

Attendance and Class Participation 50%
Assignments 25%
Portfolio 25%

IMPORTANT DATES with respect to this class:

Labor Day (No classes): Monday, September 7, 2015
Last date to drop without a grade: Friday, September 4, 2015
Fall Break: Thursday & Friday, October 8-9, 2015
Thanksgiving Break: Thursday & Friday, November 26-27, 2015
Portfolio due: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 (There is no Final Exam.)

UNM EMAIL/BLACK BOARD LEARN ACCESS: Beginning Fall 2015 semester, all UNM-Valencia students will need a UNM Net ID which can be created by going to: http://it.unm.edu/accounts/. UNM Net ID will give you access to the computer labs on campus, blackboard learn and UNM Email.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: If a student misses 2 classes in the first two weeks or 3 consecutive class periods or 5 total, the student may be dropped from the class. The student bears full responsibility for the material and procedural information covered in class.

SUPPORT SERVICES: The Valencia Campus Library provides a quiet atmosphere for study and is an excellent resource for supplementary materials. Audiotapes and videotapes are available for student use through the library. The STEM Center offers tutoring at no cost to the student. For best results, schedule appointments for tutoring at (505) 925-8515. The Learning Center (925-8907) and TRiO also offer tutoring at no cost to the student. The online tutor, Ryan Baltunis, can be reached at 925-8553 or found in LRC 118. Students who miss tutoring appointments may be denied future appointments.
EXPECTATIONS: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a polite, courteous, professional and collegial manner. Cell phones must be set on silent. Please step into the hall if you need to take a call during class.

DISABILITY STATEMENT: If you have a documented disability, please provide me with a copy of your letter from Equal Access Services as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are provided in a timely manner. The Equal Access Office can be reached at 925-8510.

COMPUTER LAB RESPONSIBILITY: Please be advised that use of computer labs on UNM properties is governed by “Policy 2500: Acceptable Computer Use” which can be found at http://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2500.html. Food and drink are also prohibited in any computer lab on campus. Anyone violating these policies is subject to possible suspension and loss of computer lab privileges.

UNM’s Policy on Academic Honesty: Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, including dismissal, against any student who is found responsible for academic dishonesty. Any student who has been judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests or assignments, claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; and misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or outside the University.

DURING THIS COURSE, students will:
- Be introduced to various STEM fields and present some of their own findings regarding various STEM fields.
- Practice basic skills essential for successful pursuit of an STEM degree including developing effective learning and life techniques.
- Participate in hands-on exercises.
- Hear from persons who support STEM students and/or work in STEM fields
- Be aware of opportunities for leadership, life-long learning and citizenship skills.

PORTFOLIO: At the last class of the semester, each student will submit a portfolio including:
- Cover letter for work or scholarship application
- Résumé
- Request for a letter of recommendation
- Statement of academic goals
- Tentative course load for Spring 2016 and Fall 2017 (2 Semesters)

Additional portfolio detail will be provided as the semester progresses. Each part of the portfolio should appear on a separate page, typed and spell-checked. Late portfolio grades will be reduced by 10% per day. No portfolios will be accepted after Wednesday, December 9, 2015.