**Recycler of the Year: Mary Canavan**

We are delighted to award Mary Canavan with the honor of Recycler of the Year, and with this honor also give her hearty thank you for the impact her work has had on recycling in New Mexico. Mary has been a champion for recycling for the last 12 years in her home, community and workplace. She is the Sustainability Program Lead at the NASA White Sands Test Facility in Las Cruces. Among her many responsibilities, Mary supports the site sustainable acquisition program, oversees the Environmental Management Program for Opportunities in Resource Conservation, is project lead for the site solid waste and recycling contract, and is an avid dumpster diver. During her tenure with the recycling program, the NASA facility recycling rate has risen from 37% in 2005 to 89% in 2016.

In 2016, Mary approached South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) about partnering with NASA to recycle usable materials that would otherwise go to the landfill. Material not used on the NASA site and that cannot be sold or sent to other federal agencies, are transferred to SCSWA and made available to the community, including schools and non-profits. Materials made available through SCSWA include office furniture, plastic barrels, various office supplies, and usable lumber.

Mary served as a volunteer for both the South Central Recycling Partnership and the Glass Recycling Subcommittee to increase community recycling. She currently serves on the Board of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce and heads the Green Committee which supports local businesses that want to reduce their environmental footprint.

Her latest project involves working with SCSWA and Keep Dona Ana County Beautiful to develop strategies to support recycling at large events including local festivals, public sporting events, and non-profit fundraising events.

In the words of one of her nominators, “You might say Mary has recycling in her soul... and has successfully moved multiple programs forward by partnering, building consensus, and developing innovative recycling programs that work.” Congratulations Mary!