



2014 Eugene P. Odum Education Award

Dr. Manuel C. Molles, Jr.
University of New Mexico

The Eugene P. Odum Education Award recognizes an ecologist for outstanding work in ecology education. Through teaching, outreach, and mentoring activities, recipients of this award have demonstrated their ability to relate basic ecological principles to human affairs.

Dr. Molles is a Professor Emeritus at the University of New Mexico. Prior to his retirement, he held the Potter Chair of Plant Ecology at UNM's Biology Department, and directed the Museum of Southwestern Biology.

Throughout his career, Dr. Molles distinguished himself as an educator, scientist, and gifted writer. Originally trained as a fisheries biologist and marine ecologist, Dr. Molles shifted his attention to riverine ecosystems soon after his arrival at the University of New Mexico. His research spanned multiple ecological sub-disciplines including behavior, population biology, community ecology, ecosystem dynamics, and biogeography. He studied the impact of large-scale phenomena, such as El Niño and global climate change, on southwestern ecosystems. The results of his productive research are documented in over 30 peer-reviewed papers and 17 book chapters that he has authored.

At the University of New Mexico, Dr. Molles taught a broad range of undergraduate and graduate courses in ecology, including Principles of Biology, Evolution and Ecology, Stream Ecology, Limnology and Oceanography, Marine Biology, and Community and Ecosystem Ecology. Dr. Molles inspired many students to pursue ecology, not only in academic careers, but also in environmental law, water resources management, and restoration ecology. In recognition of his outstanding efforts as an educator, The University of New Mexico named him Teacher of the Year for 1995–96.