

COUNSELING CONNECTION

New Mexico School Counselors' Newsletter



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SPECIAL THANKS TO PRESENTERS AT THE OCTOBER COUNSELORS' COMMUNITY UPDATE MEETING

Technology Tools and the Early Warning System were shared at our most recent Counselors' Community Update Meeting held virtually on Wednesday, October 21.

We would like to send out a special "thank you" to those who shared during the meeting.

- Debra Chandler – Meetingbird
- Susan Hewatt – Google Forms
- Joyce Romero and Julie Abeyta – Class Dojo
- Merrilee Saige and Monte Womble – Remind
- Felicia Walker – ECHO and the Early Warning System

If you were unable to attend the meeting, you will find a recording of the meeting, Felicia's EWS – ECHO PowerPoint and other materials on the Events Archive page (under the Events navigation tab) on the resource website: schoolcounselors-nm.com/.

Our next Counselors' Community Update Meeting is scheduled virtually for Wednesday, November 18 at 3:00 p.m. The agenda for this meeting includes training in the use of labor market data and a short presentation on graduation requirements. We hope to "see" you there!

RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS: TAKING CTE CAREERS TO THE STUDENTS

When the pandemic hit, it kept Rio Rancho Public Schools (RRPS) Career Technical Education (CTE) students from job shadowing, career exploration, and work-based learning opportunities. That's when the hard-working educators in the district's CTE department got innovative.

They can't take the students on educational field trips to area businesses and corporations, so they are taking career exploration to the students. That's how Paul Lockhart, RRPS Internship Coordinator and Re-engagement Specialist, described a video series they provide to students and teachers.

Lockhart works with other CTE team members, including David Latham, Benton Spradlin and Paul Davis to interview and record videos of business and industry professionals telling their career journeys. With extra help from Susan Jaramillo, their administrative assistant, students in RRPS CTE programs are experiencing the work of industry professionals at Intel, HP, Rust Medical Center and many others.

"When Covid hit, we asked ourselves how we were going to provide this vital part of CTE education to our students in a virtual environment," Spradlin said. "And we'll be honest, it's really hard to give students everything they need in the virtual platform."

Spradlin said teachers are working hard to provide a rigorous curriculum and connect industry to the students. The video series helped provide a glimpse into the world of work that teachers can use to build a lesson plan and that students can view at any time.

RRPS offers more than 19 different CTE programs from middle school through high school.

"We have a new auto program," said Latham. "That's tough to engage students in a virtual platform. But we want to keep those students interested and hope they have enough to keep them interested when we return to a more traditional learning atmosphere in the future."

In addition to the CTE video series, the district's SkillsUSA career technical student organization sponsor/teacher found a way to have an after-school club where just a few students at a time can come in and actually do hands-on work. The CTE department wanted to keep its traction going for all of its programs; everything from autos to engineering, computer science and nursing to welding and STEM programs.

Davis said the district's counselors have been especially supportive of their CTE efforts. "Last year, Paul, Benton and I did 120 presentations about our programs to students in middle school and high school classrooms. We involved the CTE teachers and really tried to sell these programs to students before they started registering in March."

Their message was clear in each of the presentations, said Davis.

"We wanted them to know that the skills they learn in CTE are not just to get a job, but that there are really great careers out there," he said. "As a society, we all are becoming more aware of that."

Spradlin said he also offers a word of advice to CTE teachers and counselors who are the boots on the ground during this health crisis when it comes to promoting and recruiting students into trade fields.

"Right now, I say do not stress out about the way we are providing the education to students," he said. "Just do the best you can. That's all we can do."

The RRPS CTE educators have videos and interviews from big companies in Sandoval County, including Jaynes Corporation, Chalmers Ford and the Carpenters Union, for example. Spradlin said there are plenty of good jobs and careers in the Rio Rancho area, and that was important for the team to promote.

There's room to expand the video program. Spradlin said eventually he would like the media

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RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS: TAKING CTE CAREERS TO THE STUDENTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

and film students to do the interviews when it is safe for them to be out and about in the community again. Currently, Spradlin and the team record the interviews using only their cellphones and a tripod.

RRPS has more than 45 teachers at the middle and high schools who are welcome to use the videos. The series is on the RRPS website – <https://www.rmps.net/>, and Davis hopes other school districts will use the videos for its students, and possibly replicate the same type of program in their regions.

“The 17 videos, so far, are well received by the people who really count... the students,” said Latham.

“We think it’s an eye-opening experience for them when they see the earning potential of some of these careers,” he said. “If Covid has taught us anything, it is that we have to think outside the box.”

The videos are highly recommended for counselors across the state. For all the videos visit: <https://sites.google.com/rmps.net/rmps-cte/home/job-shadowing-internships>. Here are two examples:

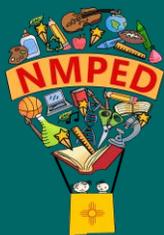


Chad McHargue, of Don Chalmers Ford, talks about how he got started in the field. He said a CTE class helped him get some experience and then realized how much he enjoyed the profession. You can find his interview here: <https://youtu.be/o3gnIo0hSkw>.



Pepper Espinoza, of Giant Worldwide Inc., was a single mother when she got started in the construction field, first as an electrician, contractor and now a businesswoman and consultant. You can view her interview here: <https://youtu.be/JgwICLde5tM?t=8>.

TEACHER TALK TUESDAYS: CONVERSATIONS WITH SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, DR. RYAN STEWART



Several counselors wanted to know how they could have more dialogue with PED Leadership. This is the answer! Teacher Talk Tuesdays serve as an opportunity to center community experience, insight, and needs as we navigate public schooling amidst a global pandemic. Each week, 15-20 people are invited to participate in the Tuesday call from 4:00-5:00 p.m. If you would like to take part in Teacher Talk Tuesdays, you must submit an interest form at <https://bit.ly/FocusGroupPED>.

Your voice can help shape what's to come!

FAFSA RESOURCES

College Connect New Mexico, the New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation (NMEAF), and its partners, kicked off **Fund Your Future FAFSA and College Application Completion Campaign**. Fund Your Future offers resources and assistance in completing the FAFSA, which is the first step a student needs in order to qualify for grants, scholarships and loans to go to college.

Please enjoy the [YouTube video](#) from various education leaders in New Mexico, as well as students from around the state who have benefited from the resources provided by College Connect New Mexico and its partners.

Also, remember that the FAFSA and financial aid help workshops, called [Money Mondays](#), started **October 5 and are held the first Monday of the month through** June of 2021. The help workshops are from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Financial aid experts from most of our state colleges and universities will be on hand to speak directly to students. Assistance is available via telephone, chat, or Zoom. View the informational flyer by clicking [here](#).

Please share the YouTube video and the flyer with your students, co-workers and on your social media platforms to help us get the word out on the importance of helping our New Mexico students get financial aid assistance.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 10

- 9:00 a.m. – Combined PLC Sessions: Career & Technical Education PLC/Soft Skills and Employability PLC

November 17

- 9:00 a.m. – Soft Skills/Employability PLC

November 18

- 3:00 p.m. - New Mexico School Counselors' Update Meeting

November 24

- 9:00 a.m. – Soft Skills/Employability PLC

For additional information and to register for the above events, see the "Upcoming Events" section or the Events Calendar on the home page of the counselor website:

[schoolcounselors-nm.com/](https://www.schoolcounselors-nm.com/)

ADVANCED PLACEMENT NEWS

The deadline to order AP exams for full-year and first semester courses is Friday, November 13. There is no cancellation or unused exam fee this year, so consider ordering exams for all of your AP students. (However, exams ordered after Nov. 13 incur a \$40 late fee each, regardless of fee waiver status.) Qualifying students pay just \$3 per exam when their fee-waiver status is indicated in the APRO system.

Second Semester Online AP: If your school does not offer AP U.S. Government, AP Macroeconomics and/or AP Microeconomics, your students can take the courses online through Florida Virtual School this spring. A PED Scholarship pays 100% of tuition (withdrawal fees apply), and qualifying students are eligible for exam fee waivers.

For Advanced Placement questions or more information, contact Alexandra Lutz at 505-827-6417 or Alexandra.Lutz@state.nm.us.



Scholastic
Art & Writing
Awards Alliance for
Young Artists
& Writers

SCHOLARSHIPS

The [New York Life Award](#), offers \$1,000 scholarships to students in any state whose works explore personal grief, loss, and bereavement. New Mexico students are also eligible for a special state-level scholarship of \$500.

All students in grades 7–12 (ages 13 and up) are eligible to participate. Regional deadlines vary and are as early as December 1, 2020.

Please share this scholarship with students, educators, or mental health professionals. Our media kit has images and text to [make sharing the opportunity through your website or social media accounts easy](#).



ACTE ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL VISION CONFERENCE

Virtual VISION, an ACTE sponsored event, announced that this year's annual conference will be conducted on a dynamic, virtual platform. Gain access to hundreds of [sessions](#) in a mixture of live-streamed, simulive, and on-demand formats, all of which will be available to access post-event.

This event will happen **November 30 – December 4, 2020**. Virtual VISION will offer immersive and expanded programming that addresses cutting-edge CTE issues during these unprecedented times.

To register and for more information on the conference, visit [Virtual VISION](#).



ANTHOLOGY AND LESSON PLANS: SHARE AND DISCUSS ART & WRITING BY TEENS ABOUT GRIEF

Check out the newly launched Educator Guides for the publication, *Healing Through Creativity*, an anthology of 17 works of art and writing that explore grief, loss, and healing through the perspectives of young people.

These resources are helpful for incorporating conversations on grief into programs with young people. Visit [artandwriting.org/healing](#) or click on the individual graphics below to download free copies of each guide.



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