



2021 New Mexico School Counselors' Community Conference

Next Step Plans: How to Make Them More Useful Elesha Fetrow and Tina Garcia 2:00 p.m.

Next Step Plan... such a powerful tool cannot stand alone, as it guides and informs our students and families to develop an education plan that fits their needs, their wishes, dreams, goals, and moves them towards graduation. Rio Rancho Public Schools in conjunction with Naviance, have created a programming map to turn up the power of the utilization of this tool. Paired with deep conversations, relationship building with all students, information for family support, and growing attention to goal setting, RRPS counselors are able to expand possibilities for each student as they leave behind their high school years, moving forward to meet their personal dreams, holding on to intentional skills, and confidence that they (our former students) are ready to succeed. Come and confirm that you are doing great things to drive your student success, add a step or two to your own plan/process, or share some of your own fine-tuning successes. Let's breathe life into the powerhouse tool known as the Next Step Plan.

About Elesha Fetrow, M.Ed, NCC, NCSC, LPCC



Elesha is a Middle School Counselor at Eagle Ridge Middle School in Rio Rancho. She has worked as a community organizer, workplace mediator, a Social and Emotional Instructor, and for the second busiest Social Security Administration office in the country, specializing in homeless support and diverse populations. However, 10 years ago she returned to graduate school, specifically to gain the training to serve as a middle school counselor - and she is home. Elesha has been employed by RRPS for the past 7 years. In addition, she applies her skills at an outside mental health agency supporting parents in building stronger relationships with their own children. Elesha knows that serving as a school counselor is her super power, creating relationships, and growing student agency and choice for the future of the state of New Mexico.

About Tina Garcia, MA

Currently in her 11th year as a school counselor for Rio Rancho Public Schools, Tina is dedicated to supporting students to become the best versions of themselves. Prior to becoming a school counselor she worked in behavioral health, including roles in a residential treatment center and working in community support. She also spent two years as an advocate for suicide prevention. She is passionate about empowering students to utilize their strengths to overcome barriers and to use their experiences to attain the knowledge needed to become democratic members of society.

