2021 New Mexico School Counselors' Community Conference

Computer Science/IT Careers

Paige Prescott and Melody Hagaman-Burns
10:00 a.m.

In a world where technology impacts our lives on a regular basis, we need to prepare our NM students to be creators of these technologies. Computer Science and its related field of Information Technology are areas where the job growth is expected to continue to grow both nationally and here in New Mexico. We can help our students navigate their career choices by understanding that these subjects are for ALL students and that we should address issues of equity and access to make sure that students have choices in the future. Learn about the current data on CS education in NM and nationally, types of jobs here in NM that need this skill set as well as get resources on how to effectively counsel and attract students for CS and IT classes.

About Paige Prescott and Melody Hagaman-Burns

Paige Prescott has been involved in Computer Science education for more than twelve years when she was Program Manager for Project GUTS, an NSF funded project to bring computational modeling to middle school students. Currently she is the Executive Director of the newly formed Computer Science Alliance where she works to strengthen the community of people involved computer science education and to advocate on a state, district and local level to see more computer science offerings, especially to the underserved areas in rural and tribal communities. She also helps to oversee the Supercomputing Challenge, a yearlong computational competition for middle and high school students in New Mexico.

She has been the President of the Computer Science Teachers Association of New Mexico (CSTA-NM) since 2015 and is pursuing a PhD in Learning Sciences at UNM where she is focusing on computer science education with a particular interest in how computer science can be integrated into science classes. Paige has designed curriculum and provided workshops for over 2000 teachers to bring computer science to their students K-8 through CS Fundamentals, physical computing and CS in Science curriculum for Project GUTS.

Over the past ten years, **Melody Hagaman-Burns** has worked with her students at Centennial High School in Las Cruces, New Mexico to grow their computer science program from nothing to one of the largest in the state. She is a Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching recipient and has received the National Center for Women in Information Technology Educator Award five times. Mrs. Hagaman-Burns coaches her school's Science Olympiad team along with the Governor's STEM Challenge and Computer Science Community Service Club. She also works with University of Virginia's Tapestry program, teaching others how to recruit girls and underrepresented minorities into STEM courses, and is a curriculum designer and facilitator for Science + C—a program that integrates computer modeling into core science courses. The achievement Melody is proudest of is the creation of an alternative

introductory computer science course titled "eTextiles and Programmable Fashion Design," which has attracted a diverse group of students and empowered them to design embroidery through coding, program their own music, and create wearable technology. When she isn't working, Melody enjoys listening to Broadway musical soundtracks with her infant son, blogging about travel, and taking Snapchat pictures with her grandmother.