

# COUNSELING CONNECTION

*New Mexico School Counselors' Newsletter*



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## COUNSELORS HELP STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY/BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

As some of you look forward to a much-deserved breather this summer, the College and Career Readiness Bureau (CCRB) is highlighting collaboration between the Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce and Rio Rancho Public Schools. They are working to strengthen the partnerships between Career Technical Education (CTE) and businesses/industry in the area.

With in-person learning making a triumphant comeback, many New Mexico businesses are ready to work with our students to ignite their young careers, not later this year, but now. Jerry Schalow, the President and CEO of the Rio Rancho Regional Chamber of Commerce said now is a critical time for a working partnership with area high school counselors to promote CTE and the careers of the future.

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## COUNSELORS HELP STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY/BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS (CONTINUED)

Schalow said the business community, like education, has suffered during the pandemic.

“Twenty percent of our businesses have closed, which means we’ve seen less members for the Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce,” he said. “On the other hand, it’s been eye opening. We now offer more services, shifting from an in-person model to a virtual model. We’ve offered a lot more to businesses to help them survive, apply for loans, hiring staff, and acquire funding.

And CTE may also be key to turning the disappointment of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 in future successes, he said. Schalow said New Mexico, like other states, realizes that students in CTE programs have graduation rates 5-10 percent higher than non-CTE students.

“I think it’s also important that we get the word out that (CTE) is a true option and not ‘just for the kids that can’t go to college,’” he said. “Yes, they can go to college. And (sometimes) the salaries are about the same between (those who go to college and those who have honed skills, earned certificates in their trade and go into the workforce).”

School counselors are increasingly promoting CTE opportunities just as they do college.

The Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce has its strongest working relationship with Rio Rancho Public Schools, including its central office, counselors and its CTE team.

Rio Rancho Middle School Counselor Tina Garcia said counselors clearly understand the importance of CTE and keep students looking toward their futures. She said having a good working relationship with businesses and industry has never been clearer than this year.

“Businesses are going to need a trained

workforce, we know that,” Garcia said. “This has to be a coordinated and comprehensive effort. We don’t want students just to settle for any job. We want them to find their passions, find where their skills are needed and then have a plan to get there. Sometimes that plan includes going to a college or vocational school. Sometimes it is going into the military or directly into the workforce. We need to value all of these options.”

If businesses are willing to offer pre-apprenticeships, internships or even job shadowing and guest speaker opportunities, they will be welcomed into schools.

Schalow said the Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce found that there are 24 employers in Sandoval County that will offer many work-based learning and apprenticeship opportunities.

The Rio Rancho Public Schools counselors in middle and high schools use Naviance as their hub for Next Step Plans and career exploration. Garcia said there are some critical questions counselors can ask when exploring careers with students. Those questions include:

- What is your plan after high school?
- Is a college degree or vocational certificate important to you?
- Are you interested in the military?
- Would you be interested in pre-apprenticeships, internships (paid or unpaid) in a career you are interested in?

These are just some of the questions that can determine a students’ skill set and motivation to attain a career that values their skills/talents, allows for becoming financially self-sufficient and that fills a gap in New Mexico’s workforce.

When asked what two things the workforce and

(continued on page 3)

## COUNSELORS HELP STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY/BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS (CONTINUED)

educators can do right now to help students find the right career path for them, Schalow and Garcia agreed:

- Reach out to your Workforce Connections group. They have the contact with the employers. Workforce Connections can pay up to 100% of the student's salary.
- Reach out to your local chamber of commerce to find out who is hiring and taking apprenticeships.
- Counselors and businesses need to agree to work together to provide access and opportunities for all students.

### One more note:

*In one of the most, if not the most, challenging years in education around the globe, New Mexico's counselors and educators were among those supporting students and working extra hard in the process. You have dealt with the harsh transition to providing services online, helping support hybrid learning, and then, finally, back to in-person learning. We know you refused to give up, and instead, provided top-notch education to our students in the midst of difficult circumstances. We encourage you to keep fighting for our students in this final month of the academic year. From the New Mexico Public Education Department and the College and Career Readiness Bureau (CCRB), congratulations and thank you for all your hard work.*



Dear Counselors,

As the end of this academic year approaches, we want to express our appreciation for the opportunity to support New Mexico's school counselors.

We know May is busy for educators, particularly counselors, so our schedule of activities is intentionally a little lighter. Professional learning communities have already concluded for the year but will pick up again when the 2021-2022 academic year begins. Weekly emails will continue through the end of May, resuming the last week of July, while the monthly newsletter will continue through the summer (with a single combined issue for June and July). May will also be the final monthly Community Forum drawing. Throughout the summer, the resource website will continue to be updated regularly and we are excited about some changes and additions for next year. Additionally, we are available throughout the summer should you have any questions or require support.

We hope you have a restful and relaxing summer and look forward to the opportunity to continue supporting you in the 2021-2022 school year!

Sincerely,  
Danielle, Kelly, Joseph, and the NS4ed Team



## 2021 ADVANCING YOUNG WOMEN IN STEM SCHOLARSHIPS



Now accepting applications!

Businesses in New Mexico have trouble finding the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) talent they need to stay competitive.

Women make up more than half the population of New Mexico, yet they are much less likely to earn a STEM degree or pursue a STEM career. New Mexico could dramatically increase its available talent by focusing on strategies for closing this gap. Women remain underrepresented in the STEM professions and there is a need to inspire the next generation of female innovators and leaders. NMOST is committed to advancing and diversifying the STEM field. This scholarship is designed to assist and encourage young women pursuing a STEM career. This year NMOST will be awarding \$1000, \$750, and \$500 scholarships.

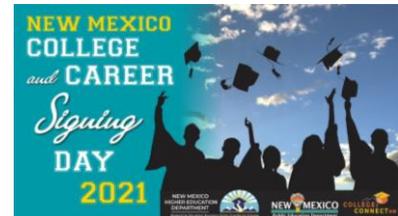
Applicants for the Advancing Young Women in STEM scholarship must:

- Be a young woman (25 or younger) pursuing a STEM education/career
- Be a resident of New Mexico or currently enrolled in a New Mexico college/university
- Be a high school junior or senior applying for college/university in STEM, OR a current undergraduate in STEM
- Have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA (based on a 4.0 scale)

The **deadline to submit applications is May 28, 2021.**

[Apply Here](#)

### NEW MEXICO COLLEGE AND CAREER SIGNING DAY 2021



On College and Career Signing Day, PED's social media accounts highlighted New Mexico high school seniors and their next steps through a 28-minute video. In the video, Lt. Governor Howie Morales, Higher Education Secretary Stephanie Rodriguez, and Public Education Secretary Ryan Stewart congratulate New Mexico's college-bound high school seniors, followed by students revealing their college choices for fall.

[View Video](#)

## SUMMER ENRICHMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

NMPED has launched the [Summer Enrichment Internship Program](#). The federal government has committed more than \$9.89 million for the program as part of pandemic relief efforts. Under the program, funding is available to cover the cost of summer internships for current New Mexico high school students in June-September of 2021 only. The goal is to provide high school students with the opportunity to participate in high-quality internships (20 hours per week for 6 weeks) in government agencies, including county, tribal, and/or municipal placements. To view the funding available for your county/tribe, [view page 6 of this document](#). Reach out to your county manager/tribal leader to take advantage of this funding. [View a list of contact information for your county manager/tribal leader here.](#)

## FINAL EWS ECHO SESSION TO FOCUS ON RESTORATIVE APPROACHES TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

As the year winds down, the New Mexico Public Education Department and Talent Development Secondary have their last Early Warning System ECHO session Tuesday, May 11 at 4 p.m. The special presenter in the session is Kamau Ptah, who will discuss “EWI and Its Invitations: A Restorative Approach to Affirmative Academic Outcomes.”

For 27 years, Kamau has been a custodian and a practitioner of the rites of passage system of transformative teaching and learning. Earning his BA from Hampton University in History/Social Science and Education and his Master’s Degree in School Administration from Cambridge College; Kamau currently serves as a nationally renowned educational consultant, who specializes in rites of passage, transformational disciplines, and restorative practices. Kamau is the founder and Executive Director of Akoben Enterprise, which is an educational consultancy that partners with learning institutions, organizations, and communities to provide culturally relevant practices centered on rites of passage, restorative practices, social and emotional learning, transformational disciplines, affirmative development, academic motivation, and identity formation. Kamau is co-founder of the Urban Assembly Academy of History and Citizenship for Young Men (the first all-male school in New York City since the 1960s and the first that established a rites of passage practice within a public school setting).

Ptah’s presentation should generate spirited, lively,

and informative conversation related to supporting the education of boys and young men of color.

Also, five more EWS ECHO participating schools will present their case studies to participants, who can share strategies and best practices to support each school. The presenters for May 11 are:

- Suzanne Zamora (Albuquerque School of Excellence)
- Shawn Morris (Robert F. Kennedy Charter HS)
- Christina Hidalgo (Springer Municipal Schools)
- Jeanette Vigil (Enos Garcia & Ranchos Elementary)
- Bonnie Flick (Carlsbad Municipal Schools)

To join the Zoom meeting:

<https://echo.zoom.us/j/9112233345>

Join from PC, Mac, iOS or

Android: <https://echo.zoom.us/j/9112233345>

Joining by phone ONLY:

+1 669 900 6833 or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 911 223 3345

Participant ID: Shown after joining the meeting  
International numbers

available: <https://zoom.us/u/adCMWhSOpz>

Press \*6 to mute your line when not speaking

To join via video from Video Conferencing System:

Dial: [162.255.37.11](tel:162.255.37.11) (US East)

or [162.255.36.11](tel:162.255.36.11) (US West)

Meeting ID: 911 223 3345

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Stay tuned!

Information about meetings and professional learning communities scheduled for the 2021-22 academic year will be posted on the resource site as they are finalized. Check the “Upcoming Events” section on the home page or the Events Calendar on the counselor resource website:

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

## FREE COUNSELOR RESOURCES TO EXPLORE THIS SUMMER

A day in the life of a school counselor is never easy, and the events of 2020 – a pandemic and lingering traumas associated with racial and political unrest – have made your jobs more difficult.

The website [Confident Counselors](#) has compiled 75 free school counseling resources for you to explore this summer. The site has resources by topic and includes everything from attendance improvement to trauma and abuse strategies to support students and families.

Social Emotional Learning resources on the site include teaching tolerance using computer applications, online videos, and lessons. The [Character Playbook](#) has visual stories on healthy relationships and positive character development for secondary students.

Other resources include:

- The [Positivity Project](#), a school-wide program emphasizing #otherpeoplematter by focusing on 24 character strengths stemming from positive psychology.
- The [Inner Rainbow Project](#), an empowerment and confidence-building source.
- [Empathy videos](#) at Class Dojo are a hit with students.

To view all the free resources, visit the site here: [75 Free School Counseling Resources](#).

## ONE COUNSELOR'S LIST OF 10 THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

The [Helpful Counselor](#) is a website and blog written by a counselor with more than 20 years' experience in school counseling. She says putting things off today to do tomorrow doesn't work in the field of school counseling. The promise of a "tomorrow" that will allow you to get caught up is a myth. She has come up with the top 10 things school counselors can do now to prepare for next year, including:

**Do a quick brainstorm of what went well and what didn't** -- It doesn't need to be fancy. Fold a sheet of paper in half and write what went well on one side and what can use some improvement. Comparing them side-by-side can help you see possible solutions for the not so hot areas by way of the things you did well.

**Example:**

What went well: I used Sign Up Genius to schedule classroom presentations. This saved me a ton of time!

What didn't go well: A lot of teachers requested me to attend parent-teacher conferences and I wasn't able to fulfill all of the requests.

The connection: Use Sign Up Genius for teachers to request my presence at conferences. If the desired time slot isn't available, then they can either reschedule a time that I am free or I can schedule a follow-up meeting after conferences.

**Purge and file** -- Keep a copy of everything that might be helpful because you never know when you will need it. This advice is good if you want to be buried in a heap of file folders that you don't utilize. A better practice: When you use an activity/resource, put it in the front of a hanging folder for that category. This lets you determine how useful a resource was and if it's worth hanging onto. Resources in the front are keepers and those in the back are possible candidates for the recycle bin.

To see the entire top 10 list visit: [10 Things School Counselors Can Do Now to Prepare for Next Year • \(thehelpfuleounselor.com\)](#)

## THE COOKE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS, YOUNG SCHOLARS, NEWS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

**JACK KENT COOKE**  
FOUNDATION

Spring has sprung, and as the earth is in bloom, so are college decisions and plans for the future among students all over the **country**. **The Cooke Foundation has been busy selecting new** Scholars and advising current ones on how to navigate their educational journey in such an unpredictable world.  
Scholarship Updates:

### College Scholarship Program

- The new class of [2021 Cooke College Scholars](#) has been accepted! This year's group is made up of [43 Cooke Young Scholars](#) continuing on to college, as well as 61 new graduating high school seniors.
- Current high school juniors can [sign up here](#) to receive notifications about the next application cycle, which will open in fall 2021.

### Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

- The Foundation announced the names of [406 semifinalists](#) for the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship in February. Finalists, who will become the next cohort of Cooke Transfer Scholars, will be announced in early May.
- To receive notification when the next application opens, click [here](#).

### Young Scholars Program

- The semifinalists for the Young Scholars Program will also be announced in May. Students who will be 7th graders next year can sign up [here](#) to be notified when the 2022 application opens.
- Contact the Cooke Foundation at [scholarships@jkcf.org](mailto:scholarships@jkcf.org) with any questions about scholarship applications or selection processes.

### News & Opportunities

- The summer Columbia Teachers College CAP (College Advising Program) course begins June 3. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- Sign up to [receive the Cooke Chronicle](#), our quarterly newsletter about issues affecting exceptionally talented students who have financial need. Read the [latest edition here](#), featuring profiles of four Cooke Scholars.

## CONTACT US

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CLICK [HERE](#) TO VISIT WEBSITE



**APRIL  
WINNER!**

Congratulations to a counselor from Bernalillo Public Schools! The counselor was the winner of a \$50 gift certificate for participating in the Community Forum on [schoolcounselors-nm.com](http://schoolcounselors-nm.com).

Each Wednesday, we will be sending out an email with a new Community Forum activity.

**[Participate to be entered in the drawing!](#)**

(Entries for the monthly drawing are limited to one per counselor per week. Only New Mexico school counselors are eligible to win. Remember, you must [register](#) to access and participate in the Community Forum.)