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NEW MEXICO
SCHOOL COUNSELORS'
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

COUNSELOR CONNECTION



NM School Counselors'
Community of Best Practice

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HOW ONE TINY TOWN CREATED A WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

When you wear as many hats as Roy Public Schools' Dean of Students Lee Fluhman, taking on an extra assignment to help even one student is just part of the job. The task at hand is more difficult, however, when it involves finding a work-based learning opportunity for a high school student in a town of fewer than 200 people with just a handful of private businesses.

Sometimes, says Fluhman, you just get lucky. Like the day Justin Garrison, owner of *The Motor Co.* (an automotive shop), called to tell him he could use an intern for his business. Lane Clavel is Roy High School's only senior this year, and Fluhman knew he wanted to find a work-study job. Clavel, like many seniors across the state, isn't quite sure he knows what he wants to do after graduation.

"Lane is extremely bright and just hasn't decided what he wants to do after high school," Fluhman said.

"When this opportunity came up, Lane said he wanted the experience even though we don't have an auto shop at school and he's never really worked on cars before. But that didn't seem to matter. He is doing a fine job, according to Mr. Garrison."

"One of my goals is to have kids learn about vocational training and get a little experience so they know if that's what they are interested in."

"Some of them go to college for four years and still don't know what they want to do," Garrison said. I just want to provide training so they can see if auto mechanics is something they are interested in. It's about imparting my knowledge to these kids. I have an old engine in the shop. Eventually, I want Lane to take it apart and put it back together. I'm showing him how to do electronic diagnostics, mount tires, fix flats, and general automotive repairs."

RMACAC OFFERING FREE MEMBERSHIP

The Rocky Mountain Association for College Admission Counseling (RMACAC) is offering free membership to all public-school counselors. Go to RMACAC.org to sign up.

Their virtual Roadmap, a day of professional development around college counseling, is on November 9. Register under professional development on the website. Also, New Mexico is hosting the annual conference this year from April 25-27, so mark your calendars!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to [Cindy Black](#), NM Delegate to RMACAC.

CAREER SPEAKER SERIES BY JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT NEW MEXICO

Mark Your Calendars for Junior Achievement of New Mexico's Career Speaker Series on the second Wednesday of every month. The November speaker is Robert Punya, Owner of Poki Poki Cevicheria and The Sweet Cup in Albuquerque. Punya will speak on Nov. 10, at 1 p.m. Click [HERE](#) to register.

The Dec. 8 meeting will feature Andres Garcia of New Mexico Bank and Trust. Click [HERE](#) to register.

HOW ONE TINY TOWN CREATED A WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCE



That is great for Lane, who says he to go to a college or university and is interested in is engineering and biology, but he hasn't "quite figured out a plan." In the meantime, he is enjoying the paid work study program.

"I'm learning all kinds of stuff," he said. "I grew up on a ranch so I had a little bit of experience, but it's helping me with other automotive jobs. I can change brakes, fuel pumps and electrical wiring. It's opened my eyes to the trade world. There's a lot more than people think. Something like this helps kids learn hands-on work that is in demand."

Over the past three years, Roy High School students have had a few work-study positions – one at a ranch, another at the local grocery store. But the opportunities, you can imagine, are few and far between in small rural town like Roy. But Fluhman, who is not the school counselor, said that doesn't keep him from trying to find work-based learning opportunities. He also has a fledgling drone pilot program at the school and that has several students working towards getting their official drone pilot's license.

Roy, like many rural school districts, has a contracted counselor that is

not a full-time employee of the district. Many of the duties that a full-time counselor would do, such as career exploration and career development, often fall to the teachers and other staff. Fluhman also teaches history and is the special education and Title IX director.

"I want to expand the opportunities for these students," Fluhman said. "I'm building relationships with the various public employers too, like the school district and magistrate court. We don't have a lot of options, but we have a great community and professionals who want to enrich the education of our students."

Roy students have dual credit options at Clovis Community College, through interactive TV so that students do not have to travel the more than 60 miles each way. The school also has opportunities with Luna Community College and Mesalands College. Roy students take the Accuplacer exam as early as 8th grade, to help set them up with dual credit when they get to high school.

Fluhman's advice to other rural educators and counselors looking for work-based learning opportunities is: "Don't be afraid to ask the community. They can only say no."

And sometimes you get lucky and the business comes looking for a good intern at the right time, like in Roy, New Mexico.

For resources on career development, internships, apprenticeships and work-based learning strategies visit the [Association for Career and Technical Education \(ACTE\) website](#).

ERIC SHENINGER AND KEETH MATHENY: SAVE THE DATES!



Eric Shenger



Keeth Matheny

Your feedback on two recent surveys helped us plan professional learning! The first survey indicated most respondents felt Tuesday morning was the best option for scheduling sessions. The second survey led to our realization that both the ASCA and ACTE national conferences were already scheduled for the same date we proposed a PLC session featuring Eric Shenger. So, we decided to find another date, even though it meant going into early 2022.

Therefore, we are excited to announce the tentative scheduling of two nationally renowned speakers for upcoming PLC sessions on three consecutive Tuesday mornings beginning in mid-January:

- **Tuesday, January 18 at 9:00 a.m.** [Eric Shenger](#), author of *Disruptive Thinking*, focuses on the pivotal role educators and counselors play in preparing students for their futures, especially with the unpredictability of today's world. He makes the compelling case that the best way to do this is to create a disruptive thinking culture in our classrooms and schools.
- **Tuesday, January 25 and Tuesday, February 1 at 9:00 a.m.** [Keeth Matheny](#) returns to provide more strategies to help you further support the integration of Social Emotional Learning into school culture so that the needs of the whole child are met and students thrive.

Mark these dates on your calendars now. We will send out additional information, including links to register soon!

STUDENT TRAINING GRANTS

The New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps provides grants up to \$150,000 for entities who hire and train youth ages 14 to 25 to carry out projects on public lands and facilities. The grant will pay for corps member wages, training, and supplies related to the project.

Funding is available to tribal governments, state agencies, local government agencies or units, federal agencies operating within the state, and non-profit organizations with a 501(c) IRS designation.

Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2022 projects is posted on the [State Purchasing Division's website](#). The RFP will be open through December 13, 2021. Proposals must be submitted electronically on the State Purchasing Division's website. First time users will need to [register for an account](#).

All materials needed to apply are posted on the State Purchasing website, and NMYCC will hold two online pre-proposal conferences to assist interested applicants through the process. Links to the conferences are in the RFP.

For more information contact [Executive Director Sarah Wood](#) - 505.470.3710.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[NOVEMBER 5, 2021](#)

- 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. - NMSCA Annual Conference - [Learn More](#)

[NOVEMBER 9, 2021](#)

- RMACAC Virtual Roadmap - [Learn More](#)

[NOVEMBER 17, 2021](#)

- 3:00 p.m. – Counselors' Community Monthly Meeting - Leslie Kelly, Behavioral Health Coordinator at PED, shares updates on the Social Emotional Learning Framework and the new Social Emotional Learning Portal. [Learn More](#)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY: LEARNING TODAY TO LEAD TOMORROW

The National Career Pathways Network (NCPN) is dedicated to serving counselors and other practitioners of career pathways, career technical education (CTE), adult education, and workforce development initiatives. They created the NCPN Leadership Development Academy (LDA) in order to support educators in understanding career pathways.

The LDA is a year-long professional development program designed to help career pathways practitioners develop leadership skills that will equip them to better serve the broader goals of their institutions, communities, and stakeholders.

When: December 2021–October 2022, culminating at the 2022 NCPN Conference

Who: Participants typically include, but are not limited to, counselors, career pathways coordinators, CTE directors, occupational deans, workforce development personnel, adult education teachers, and administrators.

Time commitment: The LDA meets virtually once a month. All sessions will be virtual, with the exception of graduation, held during the annual NCPN Conference.

Information: There is a one-time payment of \$600, due at the start of the program.

Topics of discussion will include: assessing who you are as a leader; crisis leadership; how to motivate, inspire, and empower your team; the importance of communication in leadership; and how to incorporate creativity and innovation in leadership strategies, to name a few.

Participants hear from guest presenters who share their insights and evidence-based strategies for becoming a great leader in any profession. To view an informational flyer, [click here](#).

To register online, [click here](#). The registration deadline is November 19, 2021. For more information, contact Claudia Maness, NCPN Director (cdmaness@cord.org) or Lisa Williams, LDA Chair (Lisa.Williams@fldoe.org).

**OCTOBER
WINNER!**



Congratulations to a counselor from Alamogordo Public Schools!

The counselor was the winner of a \$50 gift certificate for posting on one or more of the Community Collaboration boards on the [resource website](#).

Each Thursday, we will send out an email with a new Community Collaboration activity.

Participate to be entered in the drawing!

(Entries for the monthly drawing are limited to one per counselor per week. Only NM school counselors are eligible to win.)

[SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER](#)

You can also access previous issues of the *Counselor Connection* on the resources website or by clicking [HERE](#).

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CLICK [HERE](#) TO VISIT WEBSITE

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