

COUNSELING CONNECTION

New Mexico's School Counselor Newsletter



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PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES – JOIN ONE OR MORE!

NS4ed, in partnership with the College and Career Readiness Board of NMPED, is pleased to offer **FREE** professional learning community opportunities to you.

The professional learning communities were developed around the following eight topics:

- Career and Technical Education
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Access and Support
- Equity
- Soft Skills – Employability
- Leadership in COVID
- Supporting ELL Students in Remote Learning Environments
- Critical Support Domains for Remote Learning

You can find additional information and links to register on the NM Counselor website or by clicking [here](#). (Please note, we continue to add dates and times as they are confirmed, so check back often!)

The opportunities were developed at the request of New Mexico educators. Although free, you must register for each virtual, yet interactive, learning opportunity individually. It is our hope you will find one or more that interests you. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Kennedy at kelly@ns4ed.com.

LPN PILOT PROGRAM AT SFCC CAN BE SHARED STATEWIDE WITH COUNSELORS' HELP

The goal of a Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) partnership with Santa Fe Capital High School (CHS) was to find a way to increase the postsecondary opportunities of high school students in nursing to build northern New Mexico's health ecosystem capacity, and to directly improve the community's well-being.

They found a way, and have implemented a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) career pathway pilot program to meet that goal. A pilot program, which started with 14 seniors from Capital High School in 2019-2020, has the potential to be replicated across the district and the state.

The pilot program is an example of how strengthening secondary to postsecondary, and postsecondary to industry, partnerships can be vital to student success.

"School counselors can be the conduit necessary to get the alignment job done," said Santa Fe Community College Nursing Director of Nursing, Terri Tewart. "It really takes a dedicated team, including high school counselors, advisors, teachers, administrators and industry leaders to make this happen," Tewart said. "There is a process and curriculum that I would definitely share with any district or entities who would like to mirror this program. We believe it will be a great benefit to our students and the communities in Northern New Mexico. Healthcare is a statewide need."

Here's how the partnership works: Interested high school students are advised beginning in 9th grade so that the LPN program can be integrated into the high school schedule in the junior and senior years. LPN licensure can be attained after graduating from high school. This pilot program is a seamless secondary-to-postsecondary career pathway nested within CHS's Bio-Medical program.

The first semester of the program is held on the CHS campus. The next semester takes place on the SFCC campus. SFCC lead instructor Angela Ortiz, said the LPN program at SFCC has

always been strong and students apply to get in from across the state. The competitive nature of the nursing program meant many Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico prospects had difficulty getting accepted. "This program gives them a chance to get accepted by virtue of their intensely hard work in high school," Ortiz said. "We believe it will mean a lot to our community that they can find jobs here."

There is a third partnership that is essential to the program, said Telwart. SFCC works with the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC) to develop the LPN curriculum and align it with its ADN/BSN pathway. This alignment assures that these LPN graduates will be able to progress into the SFCC/UNM ADN/BSN pathway without ever leaving northern New Mexico. The end result is the students earn their LPN degree and stay in the community.

It's no easy process to be accepted into the program. Students provide:

- Transcripts
- An essay they write based on a topic
- An application that includes extra-curricular activities and other interests
- Other reference criteria

All students understand on day one how rigorous the program is, and that they will be expected to study long hours in order to complete the program. CHS has 13 students currently in the pilot. Tewart said CHS was the ideal secondary partner for the pilot program. "It had an established medical careers pathway," she said. "And its lead instructor, Natalie Garcia, is phenomenal. The expectations are rigorous; she is clear with them. She has them join in the HOSA club, competing and winning."

For districts interested in replicating the pilot program, Tewart said she would definitely share the secret sauce. The first step is critical. The program must be approved by the New Mexico

(continued on next page)

LPN PILOT PROGRAM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Board of Nursing, which takes a year. Then she suggests these steps:

- Make sure you have financial support from your district, grants, and foundations. “Medical pathways are not cheap,” said Tewart.
- Have at least one established medical career pathway. “Don’t start the program from scratch,” she said.
- Counselors should gauge what the community healthcare needs are. “Know the workforce needs. Who are the industry partners who have a need for LPNs?” Tewart said.

Once buy-in is established by the secondary, postsecondary and industry partners, the chances for success increase, according to Tewart.

For more information, contact Terri Tewart, Director of Nursing Education, at terri.tewart@sfcc.edu, or by phone at 505 428-1836. PED can help, too, with CTE funding available through the Next Gen CTE and Perkins V programs. For more information about PED’s health pathway programs, contact Veronica Sanders at veronica.sanders@state.nm.us.

AP EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS

College and Career Readiness, in partnership with College Board, is offering one-day workshops for current and prospective Advanced Placement educators on Wednesday, October 21. Topics include AP resources, plus networking opportunities for all regions in NM, all AP courses active in NM, pre-AP courses and AP Coordinators. (No CEU credits are available.) Sign up for 1-6 workshops throughout the day as you have interest and availability! The event is free, but space is limited, and registration is required. [Click here to register by midnight, October 19.](#)

RECAP: INTRO TO NM SCHOOL COUNSELING COMMUNITY AND RESOURCES

As mentioned in last month’s newsletter, the newly designed website, <http://careercounselors-nm.com/> was developed to serve as a resource specifically for New Mexico’s school counselors.

If you joined us for our first virtual meeting on September 23, you were introduced to our team, plans for the year and various resources available to you. If you were unable to join us, the meeting was recorded and can be found at <http://careercounselors-nm.com/event-archives/>

To better support you, we’d also like you to complete two short surveys prior to October 9:

September Feedback Survey:
<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/p1CCFs>

Technology Survey:
<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/MzCCOX>

We hope you will join us for future monthly update meetings, planned to support you and allow you the opportunity to network with other counselors around the state. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21. To register for the meeting, see the “Upcoming Events” section on the home page of the new counselor website or by clicking [here](#).

CONTACT US

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CLICK [HERE](#) TO VISIT WEBSITE



CTSO SPOTLIGHT: HOSA CAREER TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS TRAIN FUTURE LEADERS

In 1976, New Mexico became one of the original states to charter a student organization supporting future healthcare professionals. HOSA-Future Health Professionals, simply referred to as HOSA, was born in the state.

This Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) is currently re-surging from a period of dormancy to fulfill the needs of the Health Care industry in our state. It has never been more vital.

HOSA is a national student organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Education (HSE) Division of ACTE. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. HOSA's goal is to encourage all health occupations instructors and students to join and be actively involved in the HSE-HOSA partnership.

HOSA is a powerful instructional tool that works best when it is integrated into the HSE curriculum and classroom. HSE instructors are committed to providing students with training far beyond the basic technical skills needed for entry into the healthcare field. The rapidly changing healthcare system needs dedicated workers who, in addition to their technical skills, are people-oriented and capable of playing a leadership role in their healthcare fields.

For more information, visit [New Mexico HOSA](#) or contact Christine Phipps, Director of the Career Technical Leadership Project (CTLP), at Christine.phipps@enmu.edu, or 575-562-4729. To reach the PED's College and Career Readiness Bureau's healthcare pathway specialist, email Veronica Sanders at veronica.sanders@state.nm.us.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 6

- Social and Emotional Professional Learning Community with R. Keeth Matheny - 3:30-5:00 p.m.

October 13

- CTE Professional Learning Community with Dr. Joseph Goins – 9:00 a.m.

October 21

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

For additional information and to register for the above events, see the "Upcoming Events" section on the home page of the counselor website: <http://careercounselors-nm.com/>

RMACAC VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIR TO BE HELD OCTOBER 14

The Rocky Mountain Association for College Admission Counseling (RMACAC) has partnered with Acelevents to offer students in our region a **FREE** interactive virtual college fair on Wednesday, October 14, at 6pm MST.

Registration is now open at [RMACAC](#). Sponsorship opportunities are also available. View the [RMACAC flyer](#) for more information on registration and other details

Acelevents offers live weekly training sessions specifically for exhibitors to help ensure you get the most out of your virtual visit.

SCHOOL COUNSELING DURING COVID-19

Having to move school counseling services online during a pandemic or other natural disaster may be both overwhelming and challenging, and the school counseling services offered may vary from school to school and state to state.

The positive news is that school counselors have been successfully offering online student support for over a decade in virtual schools across the nation. Below are some resources, lessons, and links gleaned from this experience to share with you as you translate your counseling services online during this unprecedented time.

Many of the lessons and links can be offered to students either asynchronously (via email, posted on a website, or delivered through a LMS system) or synchronously (using real-time videoconferencing platforms), depending on your school context and available tech tools. To see the high school and other grade-level virtual counseling resources, visit:

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors/professional-development/learn-more/coronavirus-resources>.

WEBSITE OFFERS RESOURCES AND TOOLS TO SUPPORT COUNSELORS

A day in the life of a school counselor is never easy. A new website, "[Confident Counselors](#)," offers an array of resources to help counselors in various aspects of their jobs.

At "Confident Counselors," resources range from how to handle cyber bullying, face COVID-related stresses and to share career exploration toolkits. It is organized with an easy reference phone list, a binder of community resources and referrals, and an online list of other resources. To help counselors maximize their time, there is a list of 75 free school counseling resources.

2020 NM COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION SUMMIT SET FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

New Mexico's first Computer Science Education Summit is a free, one-day virtual event with CS professional development workshops from a variety of providers and topics for K-12 teachers, counselors and administrators. **The event is Saturday, October 17, 2020.**

The Summit will support counselors in various ways, including inspiring young girls to enter the field. Organizers ask: "Counselors, did you know that in NM, enrollment in AP CS Principles classes is 73 percent male?" The CS Summit is hoping to provide more information on how to recruit and retain girls to CS programs.

Join the CS Ed Summit for two workshops specifically for counselors given by a national computer science education partner. To register, visit, [CS Ed Summit](#).



FALL SAT SCHOOL DAY

The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) will sponsor the SAT with Essay for Grade 12 students on September 23, 2020 and/or October 14, 2020.

The make-up test date is October 27, 2020. For additional information visit [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa.Hernandez2@state.nm.us.

Full funding from the U.S. Department of State for high school students to study abroad!
For more information, visit <https://exchanges.state.gov/highschool/>

COMPUTER SCIENCE GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The 2020–2021 New Mexico Computer Science K–8 Grant Program Request for Application (RfA) was released on the [information page of the PED's website](#) on Monday, September 21, 2020. All applications must be **submitted by 4:00 pm on Monday, October 12, 2020**.

Pursuant to the issuance of the RfA, officials from the PED will host a virtual meeting to provide a high-level overview, discuss the intention and guidelines of the RfA with interested stakeholders. Information regarding the meeting will be posted on the PED website: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/>

For questions regarding the New Mexico Computer Science K–8 Grant Program, please contact Yanira Vazquez, Director of Math and Science Bureau, at Yanira.Vazquez@state.nm.us or Shafiq Chaudhary, Math and Science Specialist, at Shafiq.Chaudhary@state.nm.us.

Administrators: Need a local partner for your NMPED application for the recently released 2020–2021 New Mexico Computer Science K–8 Grant Program? Computer Science Alliance is happy to be thought partners in your application, answer any questions, provide information on free or low cost options for starting or sustaining CS programs as well as share what they know about what is happening in our state as well as around the US for CS education. *For instance, did you know that they can provide CS PD customized to your schools' needs and timelines OR that they have had 3 years of CS PD Weeks in June with over 200 teachers attending each year and are planning another for June 2021?* No need for expensive curriculum or out-of-state groups since there are many free resources and NM has great sources of CS knowledge already. Time is of the essence, [email them](#) to set up a time to talk.

RESOURCE FROM ACTE

Advance CTE, with support from the Siemens Foundation, commissioned focus groups and a national survey to explore the attitudes of parents and students currently involved in CTE, as well as prospective CTE parents and students, to better understand the promise and opportunity of CTE. *Making a Winning Case for CTE: How Local Leaders Can Communicate the Value of CTE* provides ideas for how local leaders can use the messages and research from the [Value and Promise of Career Technical Education](#) report to effectively communicate the importance of CTE, especially to the most important audiences- students and parents.

View *Making a Winning Case for CTE: How Local Leaders Can Communicate the Value of CTE* in our [Learning that Works Resource Center](#).

Brittany Cannady,
Digital Media Associate

SKILL BUILDERS OFFERS LEARNING PLATFORM FOR EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

The “Skill Builders” page of CareerPrepped is a learning marketplace for students. There are many “Skill Builders” that focus on essential workplace skills, often referred to as “soft” or “employability” skills. Each individual Skill Builder is an interactive learning environment made up of three parts:

- **Reflect & Practice** – Provides a personalized learning experience in which the specific skill addressed is defined in concrete terms, practical tips and strategies are provided to practice the skill in the real world, and skill challenges are provided to put the skill to practice.
- **Engage & Connect** – A peer-to-peer, social learning component enables learners to discuss a specific skill in a dedicated area with community members, share advice, resources, articles, videos, etc.
- **Claim Badge** – An opportunity for learners to claim a Skill Badge, which is a digital representation of a skill claim backed by evidence learners curate and link to their Skill Badge to learn how to articulate & evidence their claims.

Visit <https://www.ctelearn.org/careerprepped> for more information and to request a free account.