

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy holidays from the College and Career Readiness Bureau! There's no question this year has unprecedented challenges for Career Technical Education (CTE) students, teachers, and administrators. Thank you for your endless work to ensure New Mexico students have access to high quality CTE programs that provide rigorous and relevant curriculum. If you need any guidance, feel free to reach out to our team members listed at the end of each newsletter.

Warm regards,

Elaine Perea, PhD

Director, College and Career Readiness Bureau

THE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BUREAU'S CTE CORNER



CTE BEST PRACTICES: TULAROSA MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

COVID-19 has certainly turned the education world on its head, but that is not stopping New Mexico educators from offering Career Technical Education (CTE) programs. Each month, the College and Career Readiness Bureau will highlight some of the creative ways LEAs are providing CTE to students during this pandemic. For December, we focus on Tularosa Municipal Schools.

Tularosa High School teacher Chase Montes didn't believe he'd ever have to teach his CTE classes exclusively online until the pandemic threw him for a loop.

"A lot of CTE teachers never planned on having to do virtual education," said Montes, the Agriculture and Natural Resources teacher at Tularosa High School.

At one point during the semester, Montes hoped for hybrid learning, but it quickly became apparent it would not be possible with a rise of coronavirus cases in Otero county. That is when he went to the drawing board for his CTE classes including Agriculture Mechanics, Agriculture Leadership, Welding, and Animal Science.

Normally his teaching would include hands-on participation. Instead, technology helped bridge the gap, especially in the rural areas of the Tularosa Basin.

"Our school district decided to use recorded video clips for students who don't have great internet access," Montes said. "We would record lessons on a daily basis so students could download everything they needed for the week from a hub, take it home, do their work, and upload everything back into the hub."

Along with making sure all students had access to learn, Montes had to completely change his techniques. He said he slowed down and would break up his lessons into smaller parts. Starting next semester, he plans to use some "easy to get, easy to use" household items in his welding classes to show them basic welding techniques. He said he is going to use graham crackers and icing to teach his students about how to use principles of welding to create solid joints on surfaces.

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“A LOT OF CTE TEACHERS NEVER PLANNED ON HAVING TO DO VIRTUAL EDUCATION.”

-CHASE MONTES, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES TEACHER AT TULAROSA HIGH SCHOOL

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“It’s something cheap and basic the kids can buy,” he said. “You can teach them what the actual welding joint should look like and how you should put your material together.”

Montes also plays the role of advisor by checking up on his students with a weekly phone call to make sure they are caught up to speed. He speaks to parents, as well. “They want to know how their child is doing, and they want it to come from us,” he said.

The Tularosa High School teacher believes most of his 60-plus students continue to take advantage of the unique learning experience. In fact, if students play their cards right by taking most of Montes’

classes, they can close out their high school career with up to nine college credits.

Montes acknowledges many CTE teachers are facing a difficult stretch right now so he wanted to leave them with words of wisdom.

“There’s certainly a drawback to the pandemic; there’s a disconnect this year,” Montes said. “But we have to focus on the positive. No one likes the setup, but we have to make the most of it. There’s an opportunity to make sure you’re organized and that you use time allotment wisely.”



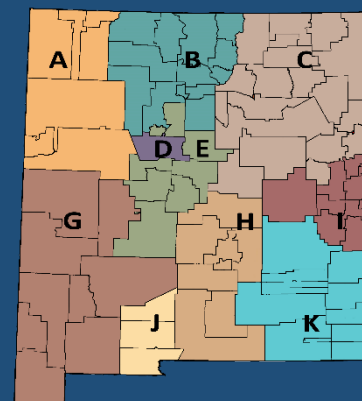
REGION FOCUS

This month, we are highlighting Region H. It includes eight districts totaling more than 2,800 students. Major employers include Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center and Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort and Casino. The occupations with the largest projected growth include Health Care Practitioners and Technical (299 new jobs), Personal Care and Service Occupations (256), and Business and Financial Operations (184). In the winter of 2019, the following local economic and educational priorities were identified for Region H: Healthcare and Skilled Construction Trades.

ACTE OUTSTANDING CTE TEACHER EDUCATION AWARD



One of New Mexico’s very own educators is in the running for a prestigious award. Earlier this year, the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announced Dr. Cynthia L. Miller, Assistant Professor at Eastern New Mexico University, as the 2020 ACTE Region IV Teacher Educator of the Year. The award recognizes educators who have demonstrated innovation in teacher education, leadership in improving CTE, and commitment to preparing teachers to deliver high-quality CTE programs. Miller is one of five national finalists for the 2021 ACTE Outstanding CTE Teacher Educator Award. The winner will be announced during a virtual award presentation on Dec. 3 at 10 a.m. [Click here to register for the presentation.](#)





SKILLS USA's "MEET THE EMPLOYER"

SkillsUSA New Mexico is excited to launch its first *Meet the Employer* event on Dec. 9 (10:00 - 11:30 a.m.). The Hospitality/Tourism webinar will kick off with some great panelists including representatives from Crowne Plaza Hotels and Resorts, National Distributing Company, and the Marriot Hospitality Futures Center. The interactive webinars will provide students and alumni the opportunity to ask questions of industry professionals on how to get hired and promoted within their trade. In addition, students will hear directly from partners on opportunities they have available for employment, training, and education. [You can register here to receive a Zoom invite.](#)

NEW GUIDANCE ON PPE

The Department of Education issued additional guidance related to the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE). According to the Department, a grantee may use federal funds to provide its employees and grant program participants with personal protective equipment such as masks, hand sanitizer, and plexiglass barriers. As with any cost charged to a grant, grantees are responsible for ensuring that only costs that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable to the grant are in fact charged to that grant. The Department has also given permission for grantees and subgrantees to donate or loan PPE and other medical supplies purchased with federal funds to health providers. [You can read the full guidance from the Department of Education here.](#)

ATTENDANCE SUPPORT

Perkins funding can now be used to help address the issue of absenteeism during remote learning. The USDE has determined that the use of Perkins V money to support salaries for "attendance coaches" who provide outreach to *CTE students* is an appropriate use of funding. Attendance coaches can be used as a strategy within the Attendance Tiers of Support to offer support to CTE students who have disengaged or are struggling with attendance issues. Approximately 85-percent of high school students participate in CTE at some point during their secondary career so this type of outreach could benefit many high school students. Interested LEAs should work with their respective Perkins coach to adjust their application for funding.

AMAZON CYBER ROBOTICS CHALLENGE

Keeping students engaged and inspired is one of many priorities for CTE teachers this year. To help, your class can compete in a free, three-hour virtual challenge that teaches students the power of coding while uncovering how Amazon uses computer science and robotics daily to deliver customer orders. Complete the challenge with your classroom by Dec. 18 and be eligible to win \$250 for your class. [If you'd like more information, click here.](#)



EDUCATIONAL STREAMING EVENT

True Kids 1 and No Reservations invite teachers and students to participate in an educational streaming event in partnership with Steve Van Zandt's Rock and Roll Forever Foundation. From Dec. 11-13, a documentary called *Rumble – The Indians Who Rocked the World* will be available for streaming. Students will also be available to take part conversations with producers and musicians from the film through an online Zoom session. Digital lesson plans are also available for teachers exploring the musical, historical, and cultural themes in the film. [Teachers can sign up here](#) or contact info@trukids1.org for more information.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT REMINDERS **AP**

- Now that most AP exams have been ordered, please make sure your school has reported to REC-9 the number of fee waivers you'll need this year. [Click here](#) to report the number of exams that qualify. College Board allows you to update this information without penalty until April, but please remember to also inform REC-9 if you make changes.
- Does your school have students interested in AP Macroeconomics, Microeconomics or US Government – but your campus doesn't offer the classes? A scholarship from NMPED can pay student online tuition during 2nd semester. Contact Alexandra Lutz at 505-827-6417 or alexandra.lutz@state.nm.us as soon as possible to learn how to get started.
- AP Potential is available in early December for schools that administered the PSAT/NMSQT this fall. Score reports identify 23 Advanced Placement exams which students are likely to pass with a score of 3 or higher, qualifying them for guaranteed credit at all public universities in New Mexico, and most universities throughout the United States.
- Monthly Advanced Placement updates provide information about Professional Development and other detailed announcements. If you would like to receive this communication, contact Alexandra Lutz to add your name to the contact list.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is helping New Mexico students get a head start in STEM careers. PLTW is offering a *Launch Teacher Core Training Grant* for school districts that are committed to starting PLTW's "Launch PreK-5 Elementary Program" in at least five schools in 2020-21. The grant will provide virtual core training for up to 25 classroom teachers. For more information, contact the New Mexico PLTW Director of School Engagement, Ester Gonzalez, at egonzalez@pltw.org.

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

It's hard to believe, but Computer Science Education Week is already on the horizon. From Dec. 7-13, CTE teachers and students can celebrate computer science with a variety of tutorials and activities, including the "Hour of Code". You can plan and organize an "Hour of Code" event for your virtual classroom or community. [Click here to find out more.](#)

SCHOLARSHIP OF THE MONTH

ENMU-Ruidoso's Cybersecurity Center of Academic Excellence Workforce Scholarship

- Academic Year 1 at ENMU-Ruidoso stipend (up to \$6,216), professional development, job placement assistance via the Cybersecurity Center of Academic Excellence Industry Coalition
- Scholarship recipient must:
 - Be a US citizen or permanent resident
 - Have earned high school diploma or GED
 - Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 while enrolled
 - Be a first responder, veteran, or Native American
 - Sign an Obligation Affirmation Agreement
 - Follow the CAE Workforces Development Application process
- Request application via email to Stephen.miller@enmu.edu

NBCT TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP

The New Mexico Public Education Department is pleased to announce the National Board Certification Scholarship Act (2020 HB 102) has allocated funds to help teachers pay the fees to pursue national boards. This is an opportunity for teachers, including CTE teachers, to become a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT). Educators have until Jan. 15, 2021 to apply for a scholarship that covers \$1,900 in first-time candidate fees. Teachers are still responsible for the \$75 yearly registration fee.

New Mexico currently has 43 certified CTE teachers, including Tracy Galligan, who is the Computer/Business teacher and CTE Department Head at Taos High School. Galligan became NMCT certified in 2018 after a three-year process. "Finishing the components was a good process to look at the way I taught and see where I need to improve and fine tune," Galligan said. "I would recommend the process to anyone because of the bump in pay and individual growth is great." To apply for the scholarship, [click here](#).

CCRB COACHES

- Alex Lutz, Region A
 - Career Clusters: Business, Finance, Marketing, Government
 - Email: Alexandra.Lutz@state.nm.us
 - Phone: 505-827-6417
- Barbara Armijo, Region D
 - Career Clusters: Education & Training, Human Services
 - Email: Barbara.Armijo@state.nm.us
 - Phone: 505-827-6719
- Denise Ojeda, Region C
 - Career Clusters: Architecture & Construction, Manufacturing
 - Email: Victoria.Ojeda@state.nm.us
 - Phone: 505-827-6717
- Jaime Cherry, Region H & K
 - Career Clusters: STEM, Information Technology
 - Email: Jaime.Cherry@state.nm.us
 - Phone: 505-827-6798
- JoAnn Beuerle, Region I
 - Career Clusters: Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
 - Email: Joann.Beuerle@state.nm.us
 - Phone: 505-827-6729
- Rick Schmidt, Region B
 - Career Clusters: Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security, Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
 - Email: Rick.Schmidt@state.nm.us
 - Phone: 505-827-5844
- Susan Chaudoir, PhD, Region G & J
 - Career Clusters: Hospitality & Tourism, Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications
 - Email: Susan.Chaudoir@state.nm.us
 - Phone: 505-827-6723
- Veronica Sanders, Region E, G, J
 - Career Clusters: Health Science
 - Email: Veronica.Sanders@state.nm.us
 - Phone: 505-827-4278

DO YOU HAVE A CTE EVENT OR STORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE? REACH OUT TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR AT CHRISTIAN.NARANJO@STATE.NM.US