

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It's been a long road to get to this point, but we're finally welcoming students back into the classroom full-time! We still have a lot of work left to minimize the risk of the coronavirus, but we can now rejoice in the fact that we get to see our students' smiles and hear their voices and laughs in the hallways. I want to send my sincere appreciation to teachers, administrators, and all school staff as they play a critical role in welcoming our students back in-person. We hope this opportunity allows Career Technical Education (CTE) to live up to its fullest potential. As always, reach out to the College and Career Readiness Bureau (CCRB) if you have any questions or comments. Our team members are listed at the end of each newsletter.

Regards,

Elaine Perea, PhD
Director, College and Career Readiness Bureau

THE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BUREAU'S CTE CORNER

APRIL 2021



CTE BEST PRACTICES: CAREER TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

COVID-19 has certainly turned the education world on its heads, but that is not stopping New Mexico educators from offering Career Technical Education (CTE) programs. Now that most schools are moving towards in-person learning, the College and Career Readiness Bureau will highlight some of the creative ways LEAs are providing CTE to students during this pandemic. For April, we focus on Career Technical Student Organizations.

With the long-awaited return of full in-person learning officially returning April 5, there may be no group more excited for the change than Career Technical Students Organizations (CTSO).

For decades, CTOS have relied on in-person events and fundraising to provide real-world work experience that supplements what students are learning in the classroom. But for the last year, the pandemic forced New Mexico's CTOS to solely rely on the virtual platform, including Business Professionals of America (BPA), DECA, Educators Rising, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), HOSA-Future Health Professionals, FFA, SkillsUSA, and the Technology Student Association (TSA).

But as soon as the return of in-person learning was announced, SkillsUSA students from Las Cruces Public Schools and Deming Public Schools wasted no time putting their skills to the test.

In Deming, Mary Anderson and David Monjaras lead the high school's SkillsUSA group. Once they learned high school sports

could return in certain counties, they put on their thinking caps and came up with this idea: reach out to SkillsUSA students in the health sciences chapter to see if they were interested in handling COVID-19 screening duties at high school games. They quickly realized students were eager to take advantage of the hands-on experience.

"Kids are constantly volunteering," Anderson said. "Since we can only have a couple students work each event, we have a schedule of who is volunteering for each event. It fills up very quickly."

Students handle temperature checks and health screening questions for indoor games (essential workers) and outdoor games (essential workers and limited fans), while an adult supervisor documents answers.

"They're showing a plethora of skills through this process," Monjaras said. "They have a sense of responsibility for their school. They are extremely loyal and want to serve their school."

Las Cruces Public Schools is also blazing a path for how to run CTOS during the transition to in-person learning and high school sports. Liz Wendler, a SkillsUSA advisor, teaches the Bulldawg Broadcast team at Las Cruces High School.

STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



“[STUDENTS] ARE VERY FOCUSED ON COVERING THE SENIORS AND GIVING THEM THE COVERAGE THEY DESERVE.”
-LIZ WENDLER



“SKILLSUSA IS FOR THE STUDENTS, NOT THE TEACHERS OR THE ADVISORS.”
-DAVID MONJARAS

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For the last year, her students have been producing newscasts together virtually. Many of them would use their cell phones to record video and edit the video using Adobe Premiere on their own laptops.

But Wendler’s students were also eager to get to work once sports made its return. Wendler and her students brainstormed and concluded they could livestream sporting events at the school.

“As soon as games were announced, kids asked: Can we go to this game and this game?” Wendler said. “They’re very focused on covering the seniors and giving them the coverage they deserve.”

Since they only have two media passes for games, one camera livestreams the game through Vimeo. The other camera is recording video for future highlight videos and “Senior Night” promotions.

Wendler, Anderson, and Monjaras all credit SkillsUSA as one of the main reasons their students remained engaged this school last year, allowing them to be ready when reopening occurred.

Wendler said, “A lot of these kids want to do media, so having certain standards to follow from SkillsUSA along with access to people in the industry, it gave them a lot of focus. Students are learning soft skills like interviewing, resume writing, etc. Since they were more focused on the industry, they knew the skills they needed to develop.”

“SkillsUSA is for the students, not the teachers or advisors,” Monjaras said. “They are the ones that will benefit from the activities that we are providing. Multiple students from the past have come to me later on and have told me it helped them so much.”

It’s important to mention that all of New Mexico’s CTSOs do incredible work. We highly encourage you to learn more about all of them by visiting the [Career Technical Student Organizations page](#) on the College and Career Readiness website.



REGION FOCUS

This month, we are highlighting Region G. It includes 11 school districts totaling more than 3,900 high school students. Major employers include the United States Government and Gila Regional Medical Center. The occupations with the largest projected growth include Personal Care and Service Occupations (801 new jobs), Farming, Forestry and Fishing (257), and Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations (186). In the winter of 2019, the following local economic and educational priorities were identified for Region G: Architecture and Engineering, Skilled Construction Trades, and 21st Century Transportation.

CTSO COMPETITION WINNERS

As we highlight Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) this month, we want to recognize some of the winners from this year’s competitions. Please click on the links below to view winners from each competition. Congratulations winners!



[Business Professionals of America’s \(BPA\) Virtual State Leadership Conference \(February 15-17\)](#)



[DECA State Career Development Conference \(February 22-24\)](#)

[Educators Rising \(February 12-March 5\)](#)

[Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Virtual State Conference \(March 15-17\)](#)

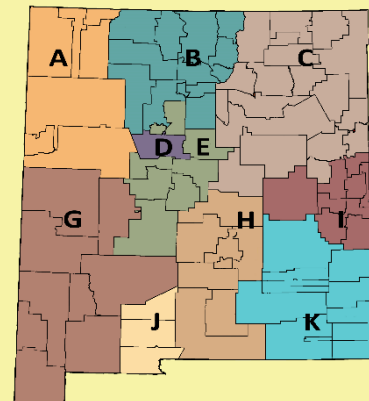
[Technology Student Association State Virtual Conference \(March 15-17\)](#)

Coming soon:

[SkillsUSA NM State Leadership and Skills Competition \(March 4-April 10, Winners announced April 10\)](#)

[HOSA-Future Health Professionals \(April 15-17\)](#)

[New Mexico FFA Virtual State Convention \(June 1-11\)](#)



ADVANCED PLACEMENT REMINDERS AP

The College and Career Readiness Bureau is pleased to announce summer training for current and prospective Advanced Placement teachers. These weeklong, virtual workshops are course/exam specific, taught by College Board consultants, and are FREE for New Mexico educators. In addition to two opportunities to participate in a New Mexico APSI, educators whose courses are not offered this year may apply for a scholarship covering registration at an out-of-state event. (Paid as a reimbursement to the district.) For more information, contact Jackie at apsi@regionix.org.

Schools also have two different opportunities to offer online Advanced Placement courses to one or more students.

- 1) Rural schools (those with a federal [locale code](#) of 41, 42 or 43) qualify to participate in the College Readiness Program with National Math & Science Initiative. Choose from eight different AP courses, receive a laptop for each participating student, and benefit from NMSI academic coaching. Includes tuition and lab fees. For more information, contact Jim Smithwick at jsmithwick@nms.org.
- 2) All schools may apply for a tuition-only scholarship through NMPED to offer online AP courses not available on their own campus. Applicants must attend a mandatory 30 minute webinar; the next opportunity is April 7 at 2:00. For more information, contact Alexandra Lutz at 505-490-3648 or alexandra.lutz@state.nm.us.

NEW CTE GRANT MANAGER



We are excited to announce our CTE Coach, Alexandra Lutz, has been promoted to Grant Manager for the Careers2Communities (C2C) grant. The new project will enhance college and career readiness for all New Mexico students. Supported by a five-year federal grant, C2C will launch [Pathways2Careers Curriculum](#), providing three new math courses for the 2021-2022 school year: 8th Grade Math, Algebra I, and Geometry. P2C curricula teach math in the context of high-value careers, answering the question: "When will I ever use this?" Each course is cross-walked to existing texts for use as a supplement, or can be used as a stand-alone curriculum. Teachers interested in taking part in a pilot this spring are being paid to receive professional development, teach the lessons and provide feedback (approximately 3-4 hours per week). For more information, contact Patricia Carden at pcarden@nmsu.edu. Lutz said, "As the grant manager, I am really excited to help New Mexico students discover the application of math in their own futures and take the first steps in their career journeys."

CTE REENTRY GUIDANCE

The New Mexico Public Education Department announced great news last month. All schools are expected to make full days of in-person learning available to all students seeking to return in-person on each school day no later than April 5, 2021. Any family may elect for their child(ren) to remain remote, if they choose. All New Mexico educators and school staff are eligible to receive their initial dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. While many districts and schools have already made the transition to in-person learning, we understand some are making the transition next week. Understandably, there are many questions. To help, we've provided a list of resources that should provide answers, including guidance for CTE learning:

- [Full Reentry Memo](#)
- [Academic Roadmap](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#)
- [CTE Reentry Guidance](#)

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The 2021 New Mexico Legislative Session concluded with plenty of big wins for education. [You can read a more detailed account of what passed in the Roundhouse here](#), but you can find a quick summary here:

- Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's education moonshot got a \$400 million boost, including more than \$200 million that will go directly to school districts and charter schools
- The Family Income Index, funded with \$30 million over the next two years, will target money toward schools serving the most economically disadvantaged students for evidence-based interventions
- \$3 million for Career Technical Education
- House Bill 22 will amend the Grow Your Own Teachers Act to expand who qualifies for the scholarship program, which is designed to increase the number of teachers in the state
- House Bill 188 will create a license endorsement in secondary computer science. All licensed teachers could qualify by demonstrating sufficient content knowledge.

UNDERSTANDING PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators are the core indicators of performance set by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE). The CCRB set Perkins V baseline percentages based on data from the last two years submitted by each district or postsecondary. To help you better understand performance indicators, we delve into one indicator each month. For April, we will cover 1P2: Postsecondary Continuing Education.

Numerator: The number CTE concentrators who were enrolled at the postsecondary institution and who graduated or received a credential (**completers**) in the reporting year **and** were either:

1. enrolled in your institution;
2. enrolled or transferred to another higher education institution;
3. enrolled in any other advanced education program.

Denominator: The number CTE concentrators enrolled at your institution and who graduated and/or received a credential (**completers**) in the reporting year.

State Baseline: 37%	Male: 33%
Female: 40%	African American: 41%
Asian: 48%	Caucasian: 35%
Hawaii Pacific Islander: 25%	Hispanic: 40%
Native American: 36%	White: 35%
Multiracial: 39%	Individuals with Disabilities: 48%
Individuals from economically disadvantaged families, including low-income youth and adults: 40%	Individuals preparing for non-traditional fields: 40%
Single parent: 40%	Out-of-workforce Individuals: 45%
English learners: 35%	Youths who are in or have aged out of the foster care system: 14%
Youth with a parent who is an active duty member of the armed forces: 75%	Migrant status: 39%



DR. TRUJILLO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We continue to remember the life of education champion, Dr. Karen Trujillo. A memorial fund has been established to honor the late Las Cruces Public Schools Superintendent. The scholarship fund, which is being collected by New Mexico State University, will help support aspiring teachers. "Karen was passionate about education," said her husband, Ben Trujillo. "She was especially dedicated to the mission of Educators Rising New Mexico, an organization she founded which cultivates highly skilled educators by guiding young people on the path to becoming teachers." [If you would like to donate to Dr. Trujillo's memorial fund, please click here.](#) As an alternative to online donations, checks can be made payable to the NMSU Foundation. You can find more information at the site hyperlinked above.

FILL OUT THE FAFSA!

As the pandemic continues to take a toll on many New Mexico families, we believe it is more critical than ever to encourage our students to apply for the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). Each year, \$21.8 million of potential Federal Pell Grant money is left on the table in New Mexico alone as many low-income students are not competing the FAFSA. Students who are planning on attending college this summer or this upcoming school year can already apply for the FAFSA. The New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation (NMEAF) is offering virtual "Money Mondays" (3-6 p.m.) which offer free FAFSA assistance to students. [We strongly encourage you to have students visit this link to learn more.](#)

CTE WORKSHOP WRAPS UP

The 2021 CTE Funding & Application Workshop successfully wrapped up last month. The three-day event addressed a variety of CTE grant administration topics; some new, and some that are perennially addressed to support quality improvement and best practice in CTE administration. More than 175 CTE managers across the state attended the event hosted by the College and Career Readiness Bureau. We encourage you to reach out to your Perkins director or CTE grant administrator to find out what they learned! [If you registered for the event, you can access session recordings and slides on Canvas.](#)

COUNSELOR CONFERENCE RESOURCES

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the 2021 New Mexico Counselors' Conference wrapped up on February 25th. But now, session recordings are available! The conference was focused on the school counselor community in New Mexico, bringing over 400 participants together virtually. [You can watch each of the sessions for yourself by visiting this link.](#)

ECHS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In partnership with the College and Career Readiness Bureau, NS4ed is planning an Early College High School (ECHS) Leadership Conference. Right now, the conference is being considered for the week of April 26 or the week of June 1, 2021. [If you would like to provide your input, visit here.](#)

OPEN SCIE^D HIGH SCHOOL FIELD TEST

The Math and Science Bureau (MSB) is searching for high school teachers to test its OpenSciEd project. The program develops free, high-quality, NGSS-aligned curriculum materials for high school science. New Mexico is currently a partner state in the project to develop full year courses in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics with the Earth and Space science standards integrated fully into the courses. The MSB is currently recruiting high school science teachers to field test the instructional materials. The field test begins with a four-day summer institute tentatively scheduled during July-early August 2021, virtually. If you are interested, you must apply by April 11th. [Visit here to learn more](#) or contact Yanira Vazquez at Yanira.vazquez@state.nm.us or Shafiq Chaudhary at Shafiq.chaudhary@state.nm.us.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN FUTURE CHALLENGE



Mission: Graduate is excited to launch its very first "Choose Your Own Future Challenge". The college and career readiness challenge provides a chance to imagine, learn, and participate in activities for learners of all ages. The activity choice boards are now available to begin working on. Registration is open until April 23rd and completed projects are due April 30th. Every student who finishes the challenge will receive an Amazon gift card. [You can register by visiting this page.](#)

CS IN THE SUN



Teachers and administrators, the Computer Science Alliance is offering a month of Computer Science professional learning this summer. Starting June 7th, "CS in the Sun" will have a variety of session options for teachers at all levels. All workshops will be delivered via Zoom with engaging synchronous work and some asynchronous opportunities. Registration fees vary depending on the type of workshop. There's approximately 32-25 hours of professional learning per workshop. [If you'd like to learn more or register, visit here.](#)

SCHOLARSHIP OF THE MONTH

New Mexico Scholars Program

- Encourages New Mexico high school graduates to enroll in college full-time at a public or private non-profit postsecondary in New Mexico before their 21st birthday
- Must have graduated from a New Mexico high school in top 5% of class or obtain a score of 25 on the ACT or 1140 on the SAT
- Family income must not exceed \$60,000 per year
- Award amount and deadlines vary
- [Apply by visiting here](#)



CCRB COACHES

- Alex Lutz, Region A
 - Career Clusters: Business, Finance, Marketing, Government
 - Email: Alexandra.Lutz@state.nm.us
 - Phone: 505-490-3648
- Barbara Armijo, Region D
 - Career Clusters: Education & Training, Human Services
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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

[YOU CAN ALSO ACCESS PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS BY VISITING THIS LINK!](#)