



## NMAA Acequia Youth Programs Presentation to the Land Grant Legislative Interim Committee August 18, 2022

### What We Do

The New Mexico Acequia Association offers culturally relevant and place-based educational presentations, training, leadership development, and hands-on learning opportunities to children and youth around New Mexico.



#### Our goals are:

- To support youth in understanding the history and deep social, cultural and environmental importance of our unique acequia systems.
- To affirm and uplift cultural heritage; help youth deepen their feelings of “querencia”; and strengthen their connection to the land, water and community around them.
- To inspire youth and demonstrate the many possibilities that exist for living lives and having future careers as advocates and caretakers for acequias and local land, water and seeds.
- To support parents, teachers, communities, acequia leaders, and youth organizations with resources to help them integrate acequia and farming education into all that they do.

[www.lasacequias.org/youth-education/](http://www.lasacequias.org/youth-education/)

## **Why It's Vital**

- In the face of climate change and myriad social issues - land based knowledge is more important than ever, but remains under-represented in school curriculum, media and the role models that our children are exposed to. Current/future challenges must be met with with engaged, empowered, supported and grounded young leaders who are able to draw on both ancestral knowledge and new skills.
- Intergenerational learning.
- Resolana: Learning through praxis.
- Critical thinking and critical consciousness.
- Belonging and sense of place as antidote to issues/challenges our young people face.

# **La Acequia es Nuestra Escuela**

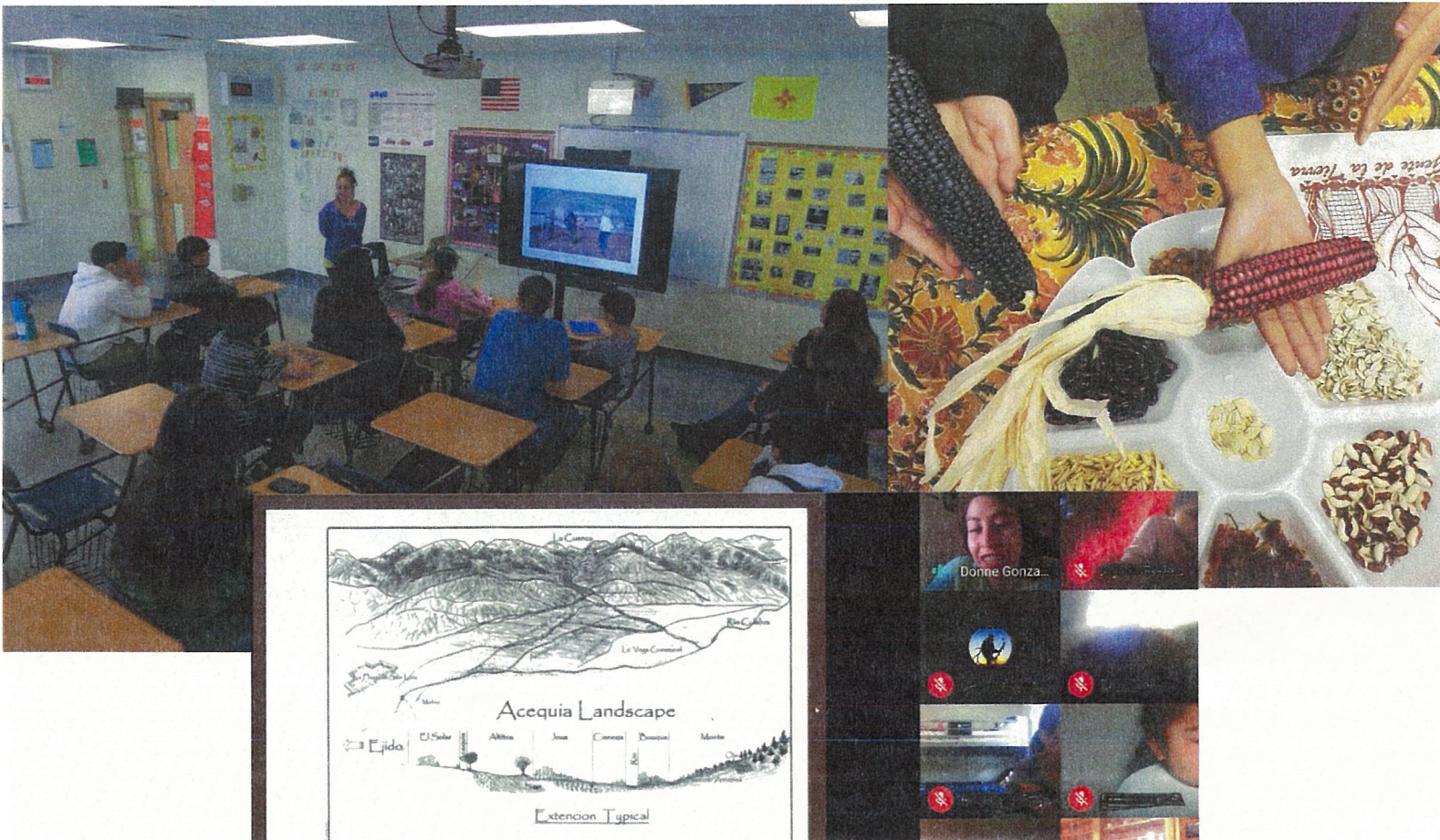
## **NMAA Youth Education Initiatives**

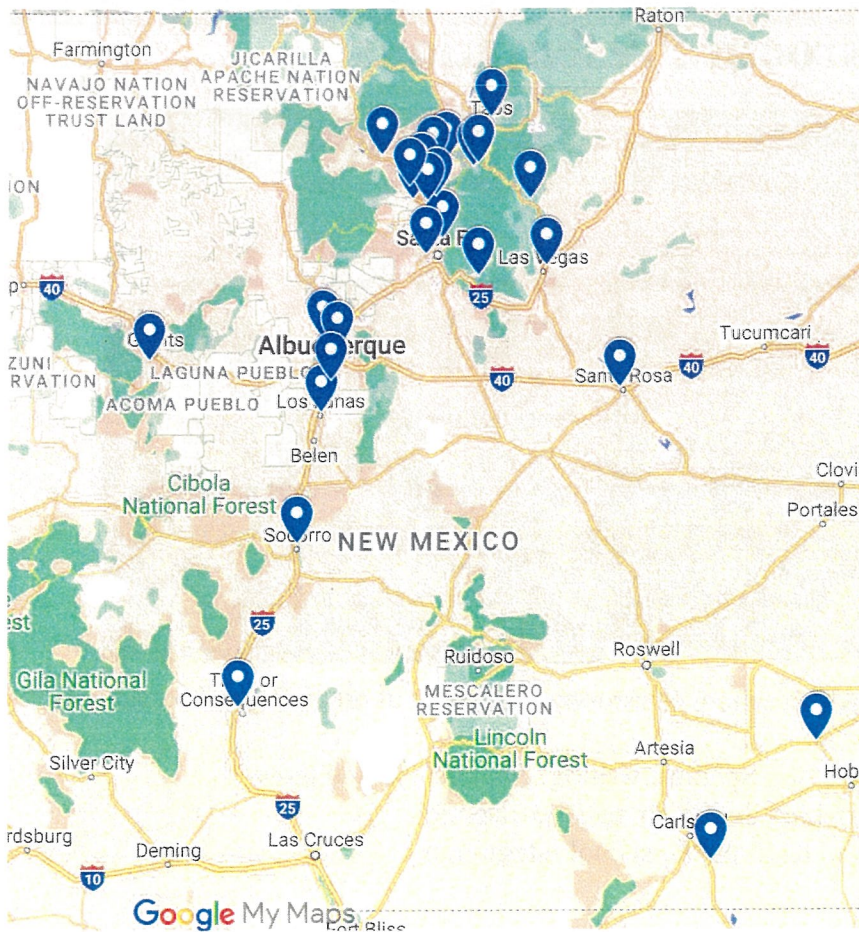
- School/Classroom Presentations
  - Sembrando Semillas Youth Project
- Los Sembradores Farmer Training Program
- Acequia Culture Youth Leadership Institute
  - Acequia Career & Lifeways Program

# School & Classroom Presentations



- 1,000+ students across the state served **EACH YEAR** in school classrooms, after school programs and outside of school youth programs (2018-2022)
- Lessons tied to diverse subjects including science, history, Spanish, writing, creative arts and more
- Online adaptations and home-school worksheets provided during covid-19 pandemic
- Ongoing curriculum building for independent use and K-12 public school integration





**Recent school presentation locations include -**

Taos	Peñasco	Vadito
Chamisal	Alcalde	Velarde
La Puebla	Hernandez	Española
Abiquiu	Dixon	Chimayo
Pecos	Las Vegas	Mora
San Fidel	Santa Rosa	Los Lunas
Santa Fe	Tesuque	Pojoaque
Albuquerque	Bernalillo	Tijeras
Truth or Consequences	Loving	Lovington
Socorro		



**Sembrando Semillas Youth Project**

- 2005-2022, est. by Miguel Santistevan of Taos
- Family based, inter-generational experiential learning network for children in their home communities
- Acequia practices, farming/gardening, food preparation and preservation, traditional skills and medicine-making





## Los Sembradores Farmer Training

- 2016-2022 - 20 young farmers trained through an intensive 9 month paid apprentice program
- On site training farm + support for cultivating personal/family farms and gardens
- Traditional cultural farming, medicine making & water stewardship practices + ‘modern’ farm techniques
- Business training and development



## Acequia Career & Lifeways Program

JMAA is dedicated to helping the young people of New Mexico discover and be successful in career and livelihood paths that bring them health and happiness – and also contribute to the wellbeing of their communities, acequias, and water.

We are honored to help train and mentor the next generation of acequia farmers and ranchers; mayordomos and commissioners; and curanderas, adoberas, leñeros and cocineros – while also helping youth understand how their diverse interests in arts and languages, sciences, engineering and tech trades (and so much more!) can connect to their heritage and families. We encourage youth to dream big – and to see the value in both their school education, and in the hands-on skills and ancestral knowledge taught within their communities.

## Career & Life Paths To Care For Your Acequia Community



**Middle school, high school and college age youth (and families):**  
Join us to learn how you can use your unique interests and skills to help care for your community, acequias, and the land and water of New Mexico!

**Join one or many sessions!**  
**Free & online (join by Zoom or phone)**  
**ALL sessions are held from 5:00-6:30pm**

**Feb. 16** - Feeding Our People: Acequia Farming, Ranching & Food Businesses

**Feb. 24** - Leading & Organizing: The Work of Mayordomos & Commissioners

**March 9** - Con Nuestras Manos: Adobe, Wood, Weaving & Herbal Medicine Making

**March 24** - The Heart of Acequia Culture: Artists, Musicians & Poets

**April 7** - El Agua No Se Vende: Law & Policy Advocacy

**May 4** - Telling Our Stories: Acequia History, Storytelling & Documentarian Work

**June 15** - Soil, Water, Forest & Climate Science to Care for Acequias

**June 30** - Using Tech to Protect Traditions: Infrastructure, Engineering & Mapping

**REGISTER:** [www.lasacequias.org/career-livelihood](http://www.lasacequias.org/career-livelihood)

Contact: [emily@lasacequias.org](mailto:emily@lasacequias.org) or (505) 995-9644



@NM\_Acequia\_Association



# Acequia Culture Youth Leadership Institute '21 & '22



## Sembrando Semillas:

- Taos
- Chamisal
- Abiquiu
- Chimayo

## Los Sembradores Farm Apprentices:

- Peñasco
- Las Vegas
- Española
- Chamisal
- Cordova
- Rio Lucio
- Arroyo Hondo
- Tesuque
- Chimayo
- El Guique
- Abiquiu
- Llano

## Youth Leadership

- Vadito
- Valdez/Arroyo Seco
- Abiquiu
- North & South Valley ABQ
- Mora
- Dilia
- Anton Chico
- Youngsville
- Ojo Caliente
- Mora
- Pojoaque
- Questa
- Cuyamungue
- Villanueva
- Cordova
- La Mesilla
- Shiprock
- Española
- Abiquiu
- Las Vegas

