



**ADVANCING WORKFORCE TRAINING
PROGRESS, IMPACT, AND FUTURE VISION**

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE – INTERIM MEETING JUNE 2025

MARY GUTIERREZ, CHANCELLOR, UNM-TAOS

On the Struggle Bus

LACK OF COMMERCIAL DRIVERS

“These are skilled workers,” says Louis Demella, vice president of AFSCME Local 3999. “If they don’t want to work for the City of Santa Fe at \$18 an hour, they can go get a job today as a trucker at \$27 an hour.”

Santa Fe Reporter, Andrew Oxford, May 10, 2023

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- Public Transportation providers
 - North Central Regional Transit District
- Fishing guides, water rafting, ski areas
- Employees trying to get to work
- Kit Carson Linemen

UNM-Taos Workforce Training

Programming is responsive to workforce shortages. It is built in partnership with local and regional employers.

Workforce Alignment: Connecting Training to Jobs

- Commercial Driver's License program addresses workforce need and transport demand.
- Construction addresses housing and infrastructure needs in on-site builds.
- Film program aligned with NM's media industry, including BLM, Continental Divide Trail Coalition, and National Geographic.
- Health programs are built with local hospitals and clinics.

Measurable Impact

1. 57% increase in awards over four years.
2. Highest growth areas: Health and Transportation.
3. CTE students now represent 20% of all degree-seeking students.
4. Strong retention and program completion rates.

57% growth in Career and Technical (CTE) Awards



Legislative Funding Led to Program Impact

High Demand & GRO Funds

Nursing Enhancement & Extension

- CDL → Tripled CDL completions
 - 30 students, \$58,715, all employed
 - Linemen: \$40/hour CDL: \$28-43/hour
- Certified Fiber Optic Technician → New apprenticeship program
 - Partnership with Kit Carson Electric Cooperative
 - 58 students, \$174,000, many employed (incomplete data)
 - Average pay \$27/hour
- Emergency Medical Responder → Sustained program growth
 - 19 students, \$19,645, graduates volunteer with local fire departments.
- Nursing → Doubled enrollment in first year (2022) and sustained that growth
 - 16 students/year, \$884,600 , all employed
 - Average pay \$37.66/hour

Community Impact: The workforce we need today

HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL

Team Taos Goal: Hire as many UNM Nursing graduates as possible and support locals who are pursuing fulfilling careers in healthcare and want to remain in Taos.



Holy Cross Medical Center currently employs 38 nurses who are UNM-Taos graduates. The New Mexico Hospital Association awarded UNM-Taos Nursing Program as the 2023 recipient of the NMHA Commitment to Community award.

KIT CARSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

\$10 million grant from the Department of Energy



As part of its Community Benefits Plan, Kit Carson has partnered with UNM-Taos to aid in local workforce training, as well as provide apprenticeship opportunities for Taos Pueblo community members.

Looking Ahead: Workforce facilities for the future

RENOVATION: WORKFORCE CENTER



Construction Incubator
Welding & Electric
Fiber Optic

Culinary
Film & Digital Media
Electrical & Plumbing

CIELO CENTRO OBSERVATORY



STEM Careers & Space Technology
Rhea Space Activity an industry partner