



# LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

## SNAPSHOT

→ \$15 million federal investment produced \$27.5 million to N.M.'s economy.

→ Legislative funding required to keep SUNPATH alive.



## 2018 STATEWIDE TOWN HALL Strengthening Higher Education and Tomorrow's Workforce

Bill Number  
HB 253  
(2019 Session)

### CAREER PATHWAYS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

# Prepare Tomorrow's Workforce by Preserving SUNPATH Today

## SUNPATH Gives Health Students a Step Up

The SUNPATH program moves students through community college healthcare training directly into the workforce. Initially a \$15 million, four-year, U.S. Department of Labor pilot project, the program creates a clear pathway for college students to complete high-needs health career training on time and with key mentoring support. Federal funding for SUNPATH ended in September 2018. **Unless the legislature intervenes, the state will lose the long-term benefits gained from this nationally recognized program.** SUNPATH is a consortium of New Mexico higher education institutions, Department of Workforce Solutions, Higher Education Department, and industry leaders.

**Town Hall:** New Mexico First's legislative platforms come from consensus-driven town hall deliberations. The two-day 2018 statewide town hall was comprised of almost 200 people representing 20 counties including urban, rural and tribal communities. The participants included students, parents, educators, nonprofit and business professionals, and government officials. Among other reforms, the town hall called for creative workforce models that address provider shortages, healthcare fragmentation and siloed healthcare systems. SUNPATH is one such model. The town hall's complete 12-point platform is available at [nmfirst.org](http://nmfirst.org).

## SUNPATH Produces Results

SUNPATH students (over 4,200):

- Experience an unprecedented 64% completion rate
- Complete certificates/degrees at a 34% higher rate than peers
- Become employed at a 14% higher rate than peers
- Earn \$8000 a year more than average high school graduate
- Often continue their education through stackable credentials programing
- Demonstrate improved employment retention
- Fill in-demand industry jobs

The SUNPATH program:

- Provides a sound return on investment: **Every \$1 investment in program produces an additional \$2.22 in N.M. economy**
- Directly created 68 new jobs, paying \$12 million in wage and salaries.

### CURRENT SUNPATH HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERS

- CNM - Albuquerque
- ENMU-Roswell
- ENMU-Ruidoso
- Mesalands Community College – Tucumcari
- NMSU-Alamogordo
- San Juan College - Farmington
- Santa Fe Community College
- UNM-Gallup
- UNM-Los Alamos
- UNM-Taos
- UNM-Valencia

# SUNPATH's Key Components Make It Stand Out

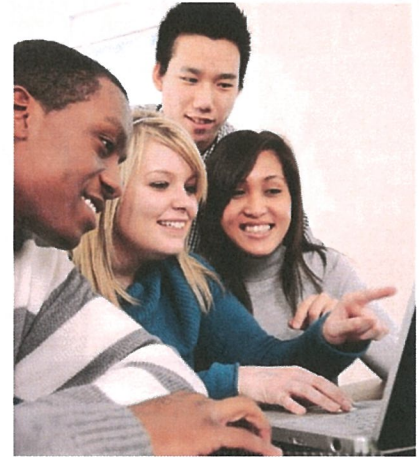
## SUNPATH STATS:

602 participants, previously unemployed, now hold good jobs.

2,022 participants received a wage increase after program completion

SUNPATH achieves the following critical goals:

- Breaks down higher education and workforce silos so students succeed
- Ensures collaboration among 11 N.M. community colleges and over 200 N.M. employers
- Provides traditional, nontraditional and English Learner students what they need
- Delivers student-centered, guided career pathways
- Guides students through financial aid and family services
- Coaches students on career development
- Simultaneously provides high-school equivalency and job training, reducing time in school and student debt through I-BEST Integrated Education Training Model



## Legislative Proposal – HB 253 (2019 Regular Session)

### BILL SPONSORS

#### House:

Rep. Liz Thomson (D)  
Rep. Kelly Fajardo (R)

The non-reoccurring, proposal funds a sustainability pilot project at least eight NM community colleges for four years, for \$5 million total, that currently offer the SUNPATH program. Funding would go to Santa Fe Community College to administer and manage the statewide program as it has under the U.S. Department of Labor grant. The program would continue to leverage current Department of Workforce Solutions and matching institutional funds. It would require measurement of program and student outcomes and provide the option to expand into other in-demand industries (energy, IT, K-12 teacher training). Additional information available here: <https://www.sfcc.edu/offices/sun-path-consortium/>.



### CURRENT PROGRAMS OF STUDY

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Community Health Worker
- EMT - Emergency Medical Technician
- EKG Technician
- HIT - Health Information Technology
- IT- Cyber Security
- Home Health Aide
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Insurance Coder
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Personal Care Technician, Attendant
- Pharmacy Assistant
- Phlebotomy
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Radiologic Technology
- Respiratory Therapy
- Surgical Technology

### SUNPATH EMPLOYER PARTNERS

Over 200 NM employers have hired SUNPATH students.

- Alamogordo Home Health Care and Hospice
- Agape Home Care, LLC
- Ambercare
- Belen Meadows
- Ben Archer Health Center
- Christus St. Vincent
- Footprints Home Care, Inc
- La Familia Medical Center
- Mercy Regional Medical Center
- Santa Fe County Fire Dept.
- Presbyterian Hospital
- Rehab Center of Albuquerque
- Tricore

### CONTACT US

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**How can you help?** Ask your legislator to support this appropriation. Add your organization's name to the list of endorsers. Donate to New Mexico First and subscribe to legislative updates at [nmfirst.org](http://nmfirst.org).