Strengthening Higher Education and Tomorrow's Workforce



Town Hall Results Support SUNPATH Career Pathways Program

PREPARED BY NEW MEXICO FIRST

NEW MEXICO STATE LEGISLATURE INTERIM COMMITTEES

- HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, AUG. 13, TAOS
- ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AUG. 14, LAS VEGAS

What is New Mexico First?

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FACTS

Nonpartisan research

Data Policy options Statewide advisors



PEOPLE

Civic engagement Statewide town halls Community forums Strategic planning



IMPACT

Advancing change

Government policy Nonprofit programs Private sector changes

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

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Implementation Chairs



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Del Archuleta

- Native New Mexican
- Committed and impactful public servant
- CEO of Molzen Corbin, engineering and architectural firm
- Former member of the NMSU Board of Regents
- Former chair of the New Mexico K-12 Board of Education

Randy Grissom

- Retired Santa Fe Community College President
- Champion for education and workforce development
- Helped establish the New Mexico Small Business Development Center
- Worked in private sector 14 years
- Started green technology and workforce programs at SFCC

Three big themes

Student success

- Improve the transition from high school to college
- 2) Get college students off to a good start.
- Tangibly support students through to completion.

Workforce

- Better align college offerings with workforce needs – all fields.
- 5) Expand the **healthcare** and **energy** workforce pipeline.
- 6) Support and grow terrific K-12 teachers.

Governance

- Improve collaboration between existing colleges and universities.
- Integrate workforce governance.





CHALLENGES: Post-secondary students face multiple hurdles

- Almost 40% of NM high school graduates get tracked into remediation their first year
- 28% of NM college freshman don't make it to their sophomore year. (37,000 students)
- Average time to complete a degree:
 - 4 years for certificates
 - 4 years for associate degrees
 - 5 years for bachelor's degrees
- With or without financial aid, NM students struggle to pay the bills in college.



CHALLENGES: Lack of alignment with workforce needs



 Employers need highly qualified people – across the board

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- Growing need for STEM skills
- Degrees or certificates students earn may not align with available jobs
- Students realize they got the wrong degree for their interests
- Students lack abilities including "soft skills" – employers want

CHALLENGES Higher ed governance: lots of deciders





- 29 public colleges, universities and tribal campuses
- 77 points of access including satellite locations
- 7 boards of regents
- 10 branch campus advisory boards
- 7 community college boards
- That's 130 people with some level of authority over higher ed policy in their communities
- Statewide committee ruled in 2017 against closing campuses or fundamentally changing governing structures.

New Mexico SUN PATH Consortium: Improving Lives Strengthening Healthcare



2020 Legislative Request to sustain SUN PATH:





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8/13/2019

New Mexico First - 2018 Higher Education Town Hall Results



SUN PATH Results

SUNPATH Students

- Completed certificate or degree at 34% higher rate, compared to nonparticipants
- Employed after program completion at 14% higher rate than nonparticipants
- Average overall gain in salary for SUNPATH students was almost \$1000 per quarter compared to \$700 for non-participants

BUREAU OF BUSINESS & ECONOMIC RESEARCH





Entry-level Educational Requirements for Healthcare Occupations

The canner be developed after the bock of the professional degree, 9%
 The majority (58%) of healthcare jobs expected to be created by 2027 will not require a Bachelor's degree.
 Nearly one-third (29%) will require Postsecondary nondegree awards similar to those supported by SUN PATH.

BUREAU OF BUSINESS & ECONOMIC RESEARCH Source: Occupational Employment Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A Sound Education and Workforce Alignment Investment – BBER ROI STUDY



Return On Investment

SUNPATH students:

- Earn more
 - Every \$1 invested, participants realize a benefit of \$2.22 in increased earnings.
 - Participants earn ave. \$8000 more in annual earnings than high school graduate
- Contribute more to economy
 - Total increased earnings \$132 million fr. 2017-2028
 - \$15 million in start-up funds yielded over \$27 million in economic output
 - Job creation (68 SUNPATH jobs), over \$12 m. in wage, salaries
- Fill high-demand jobs
 - Over 3,100 students prepared for more lucrative career path where workforce need exists.

SUN PATH Goals

- (1) **EXPAND** CAPACITY AND SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTHCARE CAREER PATHWAYS THAT ALIGN WITH INDUSTRY NEEDS;
- (2) INCREASE THE ATTAINMENT OF DEGREES, CERTIFICATIONS, AND INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS; AND
- (3) CREATE STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT BETWEEN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE SYSTEMS, RESULTING IN IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES, RETENTION, AND AVERAGE EARNINGS.

SUN PATH Partners



- Santa Fe Community College (lead college)
- Ten New Mexico community colleges
- Over 200 employer
 partners
- Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS)
- Higher Education
 Department

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SUN PATH Program Design

- Guided Career Pathways with Stacked Credentials
- Integrated Education and Training (I-BEST) for Adult Education students
- Job Development Career Coaches
- Collaboration among colleges
- Sector Strategies
 - Statewide and Regional Career Pathway Alignment Teams
 - Collaboration with the Department of Workforce Solutions
 - Employer Engagement



Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training

- An innovative program developed in Washington State
- Integrates Adult Basic Education (Math and Literacy development) with career and technical training
- It integrates a set of courses in a career-technical education (CTE) field that are taught jointly by a CTE instructor and a basic skills instructor.
- Delivers demand driven career pathways
- Designed to increase post-secondary credential attainment for low-skilled individuals
- Accelerates basic skills students' transition into and through college-level occupational field of study

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Workforce/College Partnership

- SUN PATH contracts with the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) to hire, train, and supervise Job Development Career Coaches (JDCC) on each campus
- DWS hires a JDCC Manager to provide training and oversight
- At least one part-time JDCC is located at each college depending on size
- The college provides the office space, phone, and computer
- The JDCC becomes a part of the SUN PATH team at each college
- Regular communication of JDCC and SUN PATH college staff is key to success!
- College advisors use DWS labor market data when advising students into high demand pathways
- Program staff use Workforce Online Connection System to track student completion and entry into the workforce

Job Development Career Coaches

- Provide career readiness workshops Resources: <u>https://www.sfcc.edu/jdcc-2017-resources/</u>
 - Resume development
 - Professionalism training (soft skills)
 - Graduation checklist
 - Mock interviews
 - Organizes job fairs
- Assists with job placement
- Connect with employer partners

The Role of Employer Partners

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- (1) Take a leadership role statewide and regional sector specific alignment teams;
- (2) Help implement program strategies and goals;
- (3) Identify and map the necessary skills and competencies for the program(s);
- (4) Assist with curriculum development and designing the program; and
- (5) Assist with the design of assessments and credentials that will address industry skill needs;
- (6) Assist with placing students into internships, apprenticeships, and jobs. Each employer partner serves on a regional SUN PATH alignment teams, and many provide work- based learning experiences.

What is the current status of SUN PATH now that the funding has expired?

- Varies from site to site
- Overall, fragmented vs. aligned
- Lack of coordination, support, and consistency
- At risk of loosing the training, expertise, partnerships, and systems that were developed



sunpath program: Next Steps

- Support appropriations legislation to sustain and expand SUNPATH consortium coordination, key local staff components
- Bipartisan bill sponsors: Rep. Liz Thomson (D), Rep. Kelly Fajardo (R)
- Coordination housed at Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) to serve state
- Sustain, expand current consortium into addl. community colleges
- Potential application to other sectors, e.g. NM's energy sector, IT, K-12 educators



Thank you!

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