

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rebecca Estrada, Faith Rosetta

Phone: 505-695-4974, 505-577-4638

Email: [restrada@lanl.gov](mailto:restrada@lanl.gov), [frosetta@sfis.k12.nm.us](mailto:frosetta@sfis.k12.nm.us)

## **COALITION WORKING TO INCREASE INTERNSHIPS AND WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO**

ESPANOLA, NM, November 8, 2021 - The Northern New Mexico Coalition for Work-Based Learning (“Coalition”) is taking action in four priority areas to increase and improve paid internships, registered apprenticeship programs and other work-based learning opportunities in Northern New Mexico. These actions include: creating and hiring a “Northern New Mexico Work-Based Learning Coordinator;” launching a youth jobs and internship coordinated campaign; advocating for high-quality work-based learning opportunities for youth, pipeline talent development, and the strengthening of our regional workforce system and collaborating on the Good Jobs Challenge grant and other federal grant opportunities to fund these efforts.

“Our Coalition is committed to helping more Northern New Mexicans have access to high quality work-based learning experiences,” said Coalition Co-chair Rebecca Estrada, the Higher Education & Workforce Development Specialist at Los Alamos National Laboratory. “We know that these experiences help people develop broad, transferable skills for success in high school, college and the workplace and also enable them to access better jobs.”

Formed on April 29, 2021, the Coalition’s purpose is to ensure that youth and adult learners in Taos, Rio Arriba, Mora, San Miguel, Los Alamos, Santa Fe and Sandoval Counties and Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations in this region have access to high-quality work-based learning opportunities by networking industry to education and supporting collaborative planning, collective action, better coordinating resources, securing large-scale funding, supporting students and employers, and forging strong relationships across sectors.

The Coalition is made up of representatives of the following twenty-eight employers, non-profit organizations, workforce training entities, foundations, secondary and post-secondary educational institutions, and tribal and state governments:

- Anchor St. Vincent
- Association of General Contractors of New Mexico
- CHRISTUS St. Vincent
- College and Career Plaza
- Communities in Schools of New Mexico
- Community Learning Network
- Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc.

- Falling Colors
- Future Focused Education
- HELP NM, Inc.
- Kit Carson Electric Cooperative
- LANL Community Partnerships Office
- LANL Foundation
- MAKE Santa Fe
- Meow Wolf
- National Center for Genome Resources (NCGR)
- New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions
- North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD)
- Northern Area Local Workforce Development Board
- Northern New Mexico College
- Presbyterian Espanola Hospital
- Regional Development Corporation
- Santa Clara Development Corporation
- Santa Fe Community College
- Santa Fe Indian School
- STEM Santa Fe
- Taos Pueblo Education and Training Program
- Taos Ski Valley, Inc.
- UA Local 412 Plumbers & Pipefitters Union

“We welcome others to join our Coalition to support work-based learning placements that are beneficial for both small and large employers as well as for participants, whether they’re high school age, young adults or adults,” added Coalition Co-chair Faith Rosetta, the High School Principal at the Santa Fe Indian School.

The Coalition was originally formed to take action on the findings and recommendations of the December, 2020 “Northern New Mexico Perkins V Consortium B Work-Based Learning Strategic Plan.” It found that the region did not have enough work-based learning programs and opportunities, especially paid work experience and registered apprenticeship programs in high-demand career areas and focused on youth. It also identified that lack of childcare, transportation, and other supports are barriers for nontraditional, low-income individuals, and students of color. Finally, it found that there was no centralized coordination of work-based learning opportunities in the region, leading to a disconnect among the education and workforce systems and employers.

# # #

The Northern New Mexico Coalition for Work-Based Learning was established in April, 2021 to ensure that youth and adult learners in Northern New Mexico have access to high-quality work-based learning opportunities by networking industry to education and supporting collaborative planning, collective action, better coordinating resources, securing large-scale funding, supporting students and employers, and forging strong relationships

across sectors. The Coalition is made up of representatives of twenty-eight employers, non-profit organizations, workforce training entities, foundations, secondary and post-secondary educational institutions, and tribal and state governments.