



ECHS Spotlight – Bond Wilson Technical Center

“Industry Based, Centered on Student Learning, Focused on the Future!”

Q: How have IT pathways grown since joining the EEDW Project?

A: Athena Talk facilitates for Bond Wilson Technical Center the asynchronous dual credit certification classes through San Juan College. This is our first year offering the classes through SJC, so this is ground-breaking for our district. Intro to Information Technology was the first class offered in the fall at Bond Wilson, and in the spring of 2024, Bond Wilson will offer A+ Hardware and OS certification. Ms. Talk stated, *“Before joining the EEDW, there was no IT pathway in place at BWTC. Before joining, we had a slim computer science/mechatronics pathway post-COVID pandemic.”*

Q: What value do you see in the EEDW project for Bond Wilson Technical Center?

A: The EEDW project helps our school pay for the technology utilized in the classroom. Access to adequate technology is a big hurdle, and having functioning computers in the classroom is a wonderful benefit. Athena is planning a trip to San Juan College in May. The students will take the certification tests at the campus testing center at that time. Being able to facilitate this experience is important to getting certification after the course is completed.

Ms. Talk also mentions that with the move to shut down the coal-fired power plants and the mines in the local area, there has been a significant loss of employment for many families in the area. By participating in the EEDW project, we are giving our students a glimmer of hope in pursuing a career field that has high growth and high wages. By partnering with our higher education partners, we are allowing our students to gain essential knowledge and skills to be workforce-ready in the growing IT field.

Q: How do you see IT growing as a pathway on your campus in the next five years?

A: The NMPED has made the Information Pathway Career Cluster a state priority. The state is looking at the needs of New Mexico and the projected growth in the state. Due to the need for IT professionals and the high wage potential within this career choice, Bond Wilson is projecting steady interest in the program over the next five years.



With the introduction of work-based learning opportunities within the school district's IT department, our IT pathway will grow over the next five years. I hope that the IT pathway will become so popular that we can funnel more students into IT programs at our higher learning institutions.

