NEW ECHS Spotlight – Moreno Valley High School

"A Handcraft Education in the Digital Age!"

Q: What was the draw to the EEDW Project for Moreno Valley High School?

A: The Moreno Valley High School was founded upon the Paideia Education Reform Model proposed by Mortimer Adler and the Paideia Group. This methodology supports the same course structure for all, with no tracking of students. We believe the EEDW project will help us develop a sustainable program in our rural area. Because of obstacles such as housing, and a small population of students, IT coursework is not available in middle school, and we have offered only a few courses in high school. Through the EEDW model, students will have access to academic and career opportunities currently not available to them. When we found the pilot, we thought, "this is it!" **This program is exactly what we've tried to build on our own.**

Q: What value do you see in the EEDW project for Moreno Valley High School?

A: Giving our students access to industry professionals through workforce partnerships developed by EEDW will help our students envision career possibilities they have not yet considered. We hope to create a new career path for students in our valley, and a more equipped workforce for business partners here and around the state. With recent infrastructure improvements and the IT pathways we will build, our students may become entrepreneurs or remote workers. Providing successful, well-prepared professionals for post-secondary study or career work will draw more families into our community and develop financial resources within

our community. Our school has the reputation for being a hub of learning, and the EEDW project brings new value to our local and regional businesses, as our students apply their learning directly to the work of industry partners. The UNM-Taos STEM-X Advisory Board brought together regional industry partners, post-secondary partners, and K-12 public education partners together. As part of the board, I see regional applications of the work we will do through the EEDW project. We hope our success will draw more students to our school, and make a positive impact on our community.

Q: The Village of Angel Fire is known for its hospitality business; how does IT apply to that pathway for your students who choose this as a career path? Also, how would IT apply to your students who select healthcare, agriculture, law enforcement, education, civil service, etc.?

A: The Angel Fire Resort has always employed our students, some of which become managers and Directors for the resort. The construction technology pathway is immediately applicable to the maintenance and improvement of the chair lifts, hotel, fleet of vehicles and shuttles. The technology pathway is also immediately applicable, although low level, to the work in offices

such as, marketing, HR, membership. Providing a skilled workforce, trained before coming to the job rather than learning these skills on the job, will improve systems for the Angel Fire Resort, and for the related businesses in our community.

As we know, technology is prevalent in nearly every field, so having a foundational understanding of hardware, networks, coding, software development, big data analysis, will give students an edge when it comes to solving problems. Therefore, foundational IT coursework through UNM-Taos will help our students in each of these fields. Pathways in the fields mentioned already exist. We hope to refine pathways to include technology coursework with direct application to the chosen field of study.

How do you see IT growing as a pathway at Moreno Valley High School in the next five years?

We hope to expand community partnerships and build systems to meet the needs of our businesses. Working together, we can give students new options for their career paths. In the next five years, we will have a robust internship/work-based learning program, with specific steps and coursework to help our students stand out. The unique Paideia Education Reform Model upon which our charter is founded has guided the academic rigor and dialogue in our classrooms. The IT pathway will expand to include specializations in specific industries, and into specific degree plans as we develop student and industry interest in this work. We see this work becoming a hallmark of the Moreno Valley Charter experience equal to the foundation of the Paideia methodology, and the NISE STEM designation of our campus and teachers. The EEDW project will truly give our students access to the digital workplace, which until now has been closed to them.