HED Spotlight – UNM TAOS

"Succession of a Well-Educated, Skilled, Creative, & Responsible Foundation"

Q: Why is the realm of dual credit important to you?

A: Dual credit is important to me and to the University of New Mexico-Taos because it provides students with the opportunity to see what's possible. High school students can explore multiple career pathways or jumpstart their post-secondary journey. For many students, dual credit gives them confidence and assists in visualizing themselves as college-going individuals. Students not only see themselves as college students but also create relationships and a support system of peers, staff, and faculty. Overall, dual credit is a critical piece in creating thriving communities in Taos County and Northern New Mexico.

Q: As a dual-credit coordinator, how do you see value in the EEDW project?

A: The EEDW project has been a positive addition to UNM-Taos' dual credit program. It's been instrumental in strengthening relationships with both our secondary ECHS partners as well as post-secondary institutions across New Mexico. Since the pandemic, UNM-Taos' IT program has been on pause, but Eric and the EEDW team have been helpful in discussing what's possible and how we can begin offering IT courses again. Although our program is in the growth stage, we are moving the needle forward with support from EEDW.

Q: In looking at dual credit at Navajo Technical University, what are some ways you could see IT pathways grow in enrollment over the next three years?

A: Our dual credit program works collaboratively with UNM-Taos' CTE Program Coordinator, Elizabeth Campbell, workforce development initiatives, and community partners to create awareness and pathway options for our partner high schools and students. Currently, there is a lot of excitement and momentum around IT pathways within Taos; I believe this level of collaboration will create more awareness of job opportunities in IT and course enrollment over the next three years. To initiate growth, cross-sector collaborations are prioritizing community needs and sustainable jobs within IT sectors and creating pathways and options to get there through UNM-Taos degrees and certificates, pre-apprentice and apprenticeship opportunities, dual credit, and in-school/after-school programming in the elementary and middle schools.