

PAT Meeting  
March 5, 2025

David Bowman and Steven Sanchez focused on their collaboration to establish the CyberNet Academy, which aims to assist high school teachers in obtaining credentials for dual credit IT courses. Steven shared insights from a recent discussion about the challenges faced by educators in rural New Mexico, particularly regarding resource access and support. He highlighted the commendable efforts of teachers in areas like Penasco and Moreno Valley, despite their heavy workloads. The conversation also touched on the historical context of charter schools, with David noting the differing attitudes between experienced educators and newcomers, reflecting a spectrum of optimism and experience among participants.

Bowman reported on the budget for the year five extension, confirming full funding for the upcoming year and expressing confidence in the financial outlook. He noted that initial expenditures were lower than expected due to schools not fully utilizing their support budgets, but sufficient funds are available for both the current and next fiscal year. Concerns about potential federal funding cuts were addressed, with Bowman indicating no negative inquiries from federal sources, which he viewed as a positive sign. He acknowledged challenges faced by other organizations, such as the discontinuation of teacher induction programs, yet maintained an optimistic perspective on the project's stability.

The discussion shifted to the low enrollment numbers in IT courses, with fewer than 100 students reported across participating schools. Steven and Annie identified staffing shortages in high schools and community colleges as a significant barrier. Annie emphasized the importance of outreach to underserved populations and the role of high school teachers in informing students about their options. The conversation also explored the pedagogical differences between teaching high school and college students, with Annie sharing insights from successful dual enrollment models and the necessity of funding to support such initiatives.

Bowman initiated a dialogue on the upcoming end-of-year meetings, seeking input on how to make these sessions more valuable for schools. Ricky emphasized the need for a thorough analysis of past efforts to inform future strategies, while Tammy outlined her promotion of the Tech Summit and the need for collaboration to address structural issues in education. The discussion underscored the importance of communication and collaboration among schools to enhance program effectiveness. Additionally, the group explored effective practices in the dual credit and early college high school framework, with Sanchez proposing high school academies for certificate programs and Annie discussing a principal's advocacy for a college partnership to develop a general education certificate program.