

Gallup Project SEARCH: Incredible Outcomes in a Pandemic Year

No mistaking, 2020 was a challenging year, and every New Mexico Project SEARCH team rose to it with creativity and rigor. In this newsletter, we'd like to highlight the unique successes of one particular team: Gallup Project SEARCH. At the end of May, the Gallup team reflected on its successes from this year and identified its goals for next. With the team's permission, we'd like to share some of the items from their list:

- 100% Employment for 2020-2021's five Project SEARCH graduates, all working in competitive jobs at \$10.50/hr, 20 or more hours a week.
- Added three new supporting businesses: A Taste of the Southwest, Del Taco, and X-treme Cuts who are welcoming interns for 3rd rotations and OJTs, and supporting inclusive employment in Gallup.
- Implemented NM Safe Covid Safety Training for Restaurants and Hospitality.
- Held virtual conferences with Families on SSI and SSDI benefits and how employment may or may not affect them. Assisted families in applying for SSI, if needed.
- Built a partnership with San Juan Center for Independence (SJCI) to provide community inclusion opportunities for Project SEARCH interns, graduates, and families; added SJCI to the Steering Committee.
- Hosted individual new intern orientations and found it very beneficial, allowing families to ask questions and get a good idea of Project SEARCH goals and expectations.
- Developed a partial curriculum map alignment between Project SEARCH Pre & Post Assessments and the NMPED Common Core State Standards as part of an Alternate Demonstration of Competency (ADC) that students need in order to meet graduation requirements.

Partners for Employment is looking forward to highlighting more such successes and innovative ideas from our Project SEARCH sites across New Mexico in the next

program year. A hearty congratulations to Gallup Project SEARCH and every dedicated Project SEARCH team.

LEND's Powerful Impact, by Marcy Hintz



Last year I had the privilege of participating in New Mexico LEND (Leadership in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities). New Mexico LEND is one of 52 LEND programs across the country—most housed in University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities like the UNM Center for Development and Disability. My LEND cohort had about 30 students—Social Workers, Family Members, OTs and SLPs, Pediatricians, Self-Advocates, and Education-related professionals like me—who all have a role in building better opportunities and systems of care for persons with disabilities.

It was one of the best professional learning experiences of my life thus far. The content was excellent—for example: medical aspects of disability diagnosis and treatment; tools for effective advocacy; family-centered and culturally-competent care; and research-based practice. But LEND's most powerful impact for me was its interdisciplinary perspective on these topics. It reminded me of some of our best SWTT and SELL meetings and CES trainings in PFE: school-based professionals, community support professionals, employers, advocacy groups, and family members all bringing their unique expertise to bear on a common challenge and a common goal.

New Mexico LEND is open on an annual basis to students, professionals, family members, and self-advocates in disability-related fields. If you'd like to learn more, visit: <https://hsc.unm.edu/cdd/training-programs/nmlend/>

AUCD Shapes the Future of Disability



UNM/CDD is New Mexico's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). There are 67 UCEDDs in total. One in every US state and territory. UCEDDs provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and information sharing to support individuals with developmental disabilities. The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) is a membership organization that supports the national UCEDD network and LEND programs. For more information, please visit <https://www.aucd.org>.

Carrie Roberts, the PFE Education and Outreach Manager, graduated from the AUCD Leadership Academy in June of 2021. The AUCD Leadership Academy is a year-long program designed to enhance the skills of current and emerging leaders from the disability network to build coalitions to improve systems of supports and services. The academy is hosted by Georgia State University.

ACRE Gains 22 More New Mexico Professionals

Congratulations

ACRE - Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators

Please join us in congratulating the following Employment Professionals for achieving their ACRE Certificates!

- Robyn Collom
- Kevin Phillips
- Susie Gutierrez
- Claressa Stamps
- Samantha Michael
- Holly Bird
- Megan Allen
- Josephine Herrera- Miller
- Adam Cruz
- Paulette Cummins
- Britney Davis
- Alix Dean
- Kelly Gwartney
- Michael Hart
- Linda Lovato
- Dayle BadWarrior
- Ashlee Tafoya
- Sheilla Allen
- Terry Lowe
- Brianna Lopez
- Alex Rios
- Samantha Conover

The ACRE certificate is a nationally recognized certificate of achievement that never expires! Partners for Employment has been provided with a limited number of scholarships to allow those who complete the College of Employment Services

training course with an opportunity to obtain their ACRE certificate.

Having this certificate shows that the recipient has completed the required competency-based training and assignments which cover many of the skills and knowledge essential to providing quality person-centered services to individuals with disabilities. Whether you are new to the field or you would just like to get up-to-date on the best approaches being used nationwide, this certificate will provide you with an opportunity to showcase your skills.

If you are interested in learning more about this certificate, please contact Dominique Nunez at denunez@salud.unm.edu for more information.

Look to JAN for the the right Accommodations

The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) *Accommodation and Compliance Series* offers resources to help employers and rehabilitation professionals comply with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and identify appropriate employee accommodations.

These free publications are categorized by disability and come in downloadable PDF and Word formats for easy editing.

Visit www.askjan.org or <https://askjan.org/publications/index.cfm> to access these invaluable resources or call (800) 526-7234 (voice) or (877) 781-9403 (TTY).

Thank you for the feedback!

Partners for Employment would like to thank everyone who participated in one, some, or all of our many training sessions during the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. We applaud and appreciate your commitment to becoming an informed, connected, and inclusive group of professionals.

We would also like to everyone who completed a satisfaction survey at the close of each session. Your opinion and feedback help PFE identify the ever-evolving needs of the Employment Professional. We base our future training sessions in large part on your responses.

Please continue to give us your feedback by filling out the satisfaction survey that comes your way! You are helping us design a training platform specifically for you!
Sincerely,

Partners for Employment



Center for Development and Disability | Partners for Employment