



Higher ED Partners Meeting 3 Notes – 1/09/2023 – 10am

- Eric Arpelar gave a brief overview of the meeting and each Team in attendance:
 - **Amanda Vescovo: Dona Ana CC – Assc. Director, Academic Advising**
 - **Jon Juarez: Dona Ana CC – Comp and IT Department Chair**
 - **Annie Willmon - San Juan College – Dual Credit Coordinator**
 - **Adriana Ortiz - San Juan College – Dual Credit Program Assistant**
 - **Alexis Argumedo - CNM – Dual Credit Director**
 - **Dr. Delores Becenti – Navajo Technical University - Enrollment Director**
 - **Leslie Tsosie – Navajo Technical University - Enrollment Director**
 - **Stephen Miller – ENMU Ruidoso - Dir. Cybersecurity Center of Excellence**
 - **Dr. Jeanie Baca – UNM Taos - Associate Dean**
 - **Dr. Randi Archuleta – UNM Taos – Dean of Instruction**
 - **Dr. Pam Cornelison – Clovis Community College - Director of Educational Partnerships/Dual Credit**
 - **Dr. Mark Cal – NMSU Alamogordo – President**
 - **Greg Hillis - NMSU Alamogordo – Dean of the Career & Technology Division**
- Items addressed:
 - David Bowman, Director of REC-1 gave updates on legislation, his meeting with Representative Romero, and the implementation of the New Mexico Dual Credit Task force.
 - David mentioned the hybrid model for teaching dual credit courses from New Mexico Tech. It was mentioned by Dr. Pam Cornelison – Clovis Community College, that they had launched a similar program like this in the past and it was very successful.
 - There were discussions from the department heads and IT School Directors: **Stephen Miller – ENMU Ruidoso, Greg Hillis - NMSU Alamogordo, & Jon Juarez: Dona Ana CC.**
 - Jon Juarez: Dona Ana CC mentioned here is a great need for professional development of faculty, such as, cybersecurity, especially for high school faculty. Specially to have training to teach the introductory courses.

- Suggestion, could there be Computer Science teachers that are in neighboring districts that are master degree holders and is there any pending graduate students that are graduating with graduate IT degrees in May? In K12, there may be teachers that want to teach college but they may not have the insight on how to go about it.
 - Jon Juarez: Dona Ana CC mentioned that there is a great need for computer science teachers at the middle school level to build a foundation as the students enroll in IT pathways in dual credit high school courses.
 - Stephen Miller – ENMU Ruidoso – There is a grant that their program has received to implement professional development, more so, geared to high school faculty. Now, as far as Cybersecurity, any instructor who teaches that needs to have the credentials to do so. There may be instructors in cybersecurity that are not Masters degree holders but they have 20 to 30 years of professional experience.
 - Greg Hillis - NMSU Alamogordo is in need of more qualified faculty.
- Some professors at the colleges teach without being Masters Degree holder. Dr. Jeanie Baca from UNM Taos offered insight on this by sending the group the Higher Learning Commissions Determining Qualified Faculty Through HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation and Assumed Practices. (*This document is attached.*)
 - Dr. Delores Becenti from Navajo Technical stated that applied sciences follows the same practices and those professors in most cases will only teach lower 100 level courses.
- The Communication Development Model was introduced with an example model and one that will be developed based on the communication anthropology that is between each higher ed partner and early college high school partner. It was stated that this model will be worked in the February, March, and April meetings. The April meeting is planned to be an in person gathering in Albuquerque. Details coming soon on this gathering.
 - Higher Ed partners were asked to meet with the administration of their ECHS partners before the next meeting to begin developing a communication model.
- It was mentioned that since we have 3000 vacant cybersecurity jobs, how are graduates and certificates of completion holders were not getting hired. Greg Hillis - NMSU Alamogordo mentioned that he met with the New Mexico Workforce and there is a grant in place to send people to school but no one is getting hired. Stephen Miller – ENMU Ruidoso mentioned their 5 to 7 year grant that they are to work with industry partners. He stated that is a disconnect between what is considered an entry level or the minimum requirements. The question is also what is these students’ level of

competency. However, he stated that this is being looked at the federal level as well.

- Suggestion: communicate these findings with our IT business partners.
- **Notes:**
 - For information on NMSU's Professional Master of Information Technology Degree:
 - **Professor Rolfe J. Sassenfeld, Ph.D. Program Director,** Masters of Information Technology New Mexico State University : rolfe@nmsu.edu
 - <https://enr.nmsu.edu/Academics/pmp-it.html>
 - In its first year, NMSU's graduated 17 students. Three of those students were our graduates. Two of them started as dual credit students.
- Adjourned at 10:45am

**Next Meeting – Monday, February 6th, 2023 at 10am*