

ABSTRACT

The *New Mexico Ready and Equitable Career and Technical Education (RECTE)* program will develop a series of well-rounded courses to support math learning and Career and Technical Education (CTE), furthering students' career and college readiness upon high-school graduation. To ensure equity across the state, the courses will be accessible both online and in class. Online courses will ensure all students have access to CTE and career and college readiness courses otherwise not available in their schools, nor accessible to them due to rurality, home schooling, or special needs.

Project objectives and activities include: (1) development of an online platform where *any high-school student in the state* can enroll and participate in one or more CTE courses; (2) development and widespread distribution of online, customized CTE courses, taught by multiple providers, including courses on (a) career exploration; (b) employability skills; (c) rigorous algebra and geometry courses contextual to the workplace and customized to students' career paths; (3) development of two podcast-structured courses to introduce students to role models in STEM and other technical careers; (4) imbedded quantile assessments to measure progress in math and openings for greater opportunities in careers; and (5) capstone projects to measure growth in students' understanding of their career options; and (6) development and testing of a hybrid Early College High School (ECHS) model that combines virtual and onsite access to CTE pathways with all courses aligned to state standards and articulated for college credits and industry certifications.

Project Outcomes will be documented on : (1) increased student awareness of career pathways and their own potential for attainment; (2) improved student employability/soft skills; (3) improved alignment of well-rounded CTE courses with local and regional workplace demand; (4) improved mathematics skills through rigorous career-focused course design and feedback from quantile assessments; (5) increased course options that more effectively prepare high-need students for college and careers through CTE pathways; and (5) increased number of

ECHSs adopting a hybrid model meshing online and onsite course delivery to increase accessibility statewide.

Participants: New Mexico has 93,678 high-school students of which 62,859 (67%) have enrolled in at least one CTE course and 17,890 (19%) are CTE concentrators. RECTE will be open to *all students*, with an assumption that initial enrollment will draw from CTE enrollers and concentrators. With hosting capabilities to serve large numbers of students, potential ongoing COVID-19 social distancing, and all courses being state-credited and industry-certified, actual enrollment could be extremely high. For this grant, we project 15,000 students in Year 2 will take one or more of our online courses, increasing to 30,000 per year thereafter. The ten NM RECs will oversee all recruitment and enrollment in the State's 68 rural school districts; Albuquerque Public Schools, which alone enrolls 40% of the State's students, will oversee recruitment and enrollment in the State's 23 non-rural districts. NMPED-based management of recruitment, enrollment and delivery ensures ensure no community, large or small, rural or urban falls between the cracks. Where needed, the program will upgrade student and school hardware and software to remove any technical barriers to participation.

Number and Location: The entire state will have access, with all 91 school districts expressing a desire to participate

Absolute Priority: RECTE's well-rounded education program will increase opportunities for all students to participate in career-based math instruction and CTE, enabling those currently under-represented in higher education and the workplace to enter high-demand, high-skill careers. The program expands access to well-rounded courses by developing, implementing, and aggressively disseminating information on courses and programs. Online access enables the program to meet needs of rural students, disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities who may otherwise face insurmountable challenges to accessing onsite courses. All of the NM RECTE offerings contribute to assuring students are career and college ready.