



## SUNPATH Consortium - A Model New Mexico Education and Workforce Alignment Program

### What is Sunpath?

- Sunpath is a consortium of NM higher education institutions, workforce, industry leaders, Department of Workforce Solutions, Higher Education Department partners
- Programs at 11 NM community colleges throughout the state
- Accelerates students through healthcare training programs directly into the workforce
- Started as a \$15 million 5-year grant from US Dept. of Labor grant, Grant sunset Sept. 2018

### Who benefits from Sunpath?

Students, families, employers and communities, higher education system

### Sunpath Students Succeed

Sunpath students:

- Complete a certificate or degree at a 34% higher rate, when compared to similar non-participants
- Who were unemployed at enrollment, became employed after program completion at a 14% higher rate when compared to similar non-participants
- Average overall gain in salary for Sunpath students was almost \$1000 per quarter compared to \$700 for non-participants

### Sunpath Program – A Sound Education and Workforce Alignment Investment

#### BBER Return on Investment Study

- Helped 3,100 students in various certificate programs that aim to prepare them for a more lucrative career path in the healthcare sector where workforce need exists.
- Every \$1 investment in program will produce additional \$2.22 in NM economy
- Economic impact of \$15 million SUN PATH expenditures:
- \$27.5 million in total economic output, 68 jobs (for four years)
- \$12.1 million in wage and salaries in New Mexico
- Estimated increased future earnings for the 1,609 certificate holders employed in NM's healthcare sector (after high school graduation) from 2017 through 2028 is \$132 million.
- Program participants' average annual earnings are \$25,992 which are \$7,985 higher than the earnings of a typical New Mexico high school graduate.

*Source: UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Return on Investment Analysis of NM SUN PATH Program. Sept. 2017.*

### Sunpath Ticks the Boxes for Town Hall Recommendations

Collaboration, Efficient Governance

- Engagement of community colleges



- Efficient leveraging of resources
- Statewide collaboration among higher ed institutions and industry
- Statewide coordinator, staff – Provides coordination, efficiency, accountability
  - On campus industry engagement
- Regional career pathways manager for alignment of regional workforce needs
  - JDCC – Job Development Career Coach, every campus, blueprint, consistent guidance throughout to career, placement
  - Career pathways site coordinator
  - Basic skills instructor that integrates content

#### Student-Centered Learning and Advancement

- Clear, continuous guided pathways from school to career
- Relevant coursework
- Diverse workforce
- Recognition of traditional and nontraditional students
- Stackable credentials

#### Results

- Results, data supported outcome
- NM Sunpath nationally recognized in top 10 of hundreds of programs for education and workforce alignment

#### Next Steps - It is up to us!

Introduce legislation to fund SUN PATH consortium coordination and key local staff components

- Housed at Santa Fe Community College to serve the state
- Sustain and expand current consortium into additional community colleges
- Apply to other sectors, e.g. NM's energy sector
- Increase funding for I-BEST through HED Adult education
  - Program quickly teaches students math and literacy concurrently
  - Garner GED equiv. along with college readiness and career skills so they can earn entry level credential, move into living wage job w/in a year

## SUN PATH Partners



- Santa Fe Community College (lead college)
- Eleven New Mexico community colleges
- Over 200 healthcare employer partners
- Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS)
- Higher Education Department