



CAREER PATHWAYS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS SUNPATH: Proven to Prepare the Workforce

SUNPATH Gives Students a Step Up

The SUNPATH program is a consortium of New Mexico higher education institutions, Department of Workforce Solutions, Higher Education Department, workforce and industry leader partners that accelerates students through healthcare training programs directly into the workforce. SUNPATH started as a \$15 million, four-year pilot project funded through a U.S. Department of Labor grant that sunset in September 2018. The state will lose the long-term benefits gained from this nationally recognized program without intervention.

Town Hall Recommendation: New Mexico First strongly recommends, on behalf of 2018 Higher Education and Workforce Town Hall participants, that the state provide a permanent funding stream to sustain and expand the SUNPATH program into more community colleges and apply it to other demand industries (i.e. energy, IT, education/K-12 teacher training). Additional information available here: <https://www.sfcc.edu/offices/sun-path-consortium/>

SNAPSHOT

Fund and expand NM SUNPATH career pathway program to more community colleges and industries.

The SUNPATH program produces results:

- SUNPATH students (over 4,200) have an unprecedented 64% completion rate (many are still retained in program of study)
- Complete certificates/degrees at a 34% higher rate than peers
- Become employed at a 14% higher rate than peers
- Earn \$8000 a year more than average high school graduate
- Once complete a certificate or degree, many continue their education through stackable credentials programing
- Improved employment retention
- Fills in-demand industry jobs
- **SUNPATH ROI:** Provides a sound education and workforce alignment investment- Every \$1 investment in program produces an additional \$2.22 in N.M. economy. (UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research)
- Directly created 68 new jobs – SUNPATH college faculty and staff, paying \$12 million in wage and salaries.

CURRENT SUNPATH HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERS

- CNM - Albuquerque
- ENMU-Roswell
- ENMU-Ruidoso
- Mesalands Community College – Tucumcari
- NMSU-Alamogordo
- San Juan College - Farmington
- Santa Fe Community College
- UNM-Gallup
- UNM-Los Alamos
- UNM-Taos
- UNM-Valencia

\$15 million federal investment produced \$27.5 million to New Mexico's economy.



Key Components - Why SUNPATH is different

SUNPATH STATS:

602 participants, who were previously unemployed, now have jobs.

2022 participants received a wage increase after program completion

- Breaks down higher education and workforce silos so students succeed.
- Promotes collaboration, efficient governance and use of resources, via 11 N.M. community colleges and over 200 N.M. employers.
- Provides traditional, nontraditional and English Learner students what they need.
- Student-centered, guided career pathways
- Direct guidance to access to financial aid and family support services that remove barriers to attaining higher education
- On campus, industry focused career and professional guidance - Job Development Career Coach (JDCC)
- Simultaneously provides high-school equivalency and job training - Reducing time in school, student debt (I-BEST Integrated Education Training Model)



Legislative Proposal

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House:

Rep. Liz Thomson (D)
Rep. Kelly Fajardo (R)

The appropriations proposal would create a funding stream for the next four years for the SUNPATH statewide higher education and workforce career pathways program. The appropriation would go to Santa Fe Community College to administer and manage the statewide program just as it has under the U.S. Department of Labor grant. The program would continue to leverage current Department of Workforce Solutions and institutional funds for faculty and staff salaries.



CONTACT

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CURRENT PROGRAMS OF STUDY

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Community Health Worker
- EMT - Emergency Medical Technician
- EKG Technician
- HIT - Health Information Technology
- IT- Cyber Security
- Home Health Aide
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Insurance Coder
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Personal Care Technician, Attendant
- Pharmacy Assistant
- Phlebotomy
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Radiologic Technology
- Respiratory Therapy
- Surgical Technology

SUNPATH EMPLOYER PARTNERS

Over 200 NM employers have hired SUNPATH students.

- Alamogordo Home Health Care and Hospice
- Agape Home Care, LLC
- Ambercare
- Belen Meadows
- Ben Archer Health Center
- Christus St. Vincent
- Footprints Home Care, Inc
- La Familia Medical Center
- Mercy Regional Medical Center
- Santa Fe County Fire Dept.
- Presbyterian Hospital
- Rehab Center of Albuquerque
- Tricore

How can you help? Ask your legislator to support this appropriation. Add your organization's name to the list of endorsers. Donate to New Mexico First and subscribe to legislative updates at nmfirst.org.