

University of New Mexico
Institute for Social Research

FACT SHEET

***ENgaging LATino Communities for Education:
ENLACE in New Mexico***

ENLACE in New Mexico is a statewide partnership supporting the strengths and assets of three local ENLACE programs: ENLACE in Albuquerque, Northern New Mexico ENLACE, and Southern New Mexico ENLACE.

FINDINGS TO DATE:

- Smaller caseloads are an important factor in the success of the UNM Student Success Counselor program. Retention for UNM freshmen is over 95% for program participants compared to 76% of all freshmen. This program is based on best practices and research.
- Of the students who participated in Chicano Studies, the percentage planning to attend a 4-year college increased from 44.4% to 52%. The percentage of students who took the ACT increased from 3.7% to 12%. Recruitment for the courses has been problematic.
- In the Summer Bridge program, reading levels improved dramatically in 2 out of 3 locations. Participating teachers comment that the culturally relevant class material is helpful in maintaining students interest in reading.
- Family Centers volunteers perform an important activity known as “knock and talks.” Volunteers physically track down dropouts in an attempt to reenroll them back into school.
- Average GPAs of ENLACE scholarship recipients at TV-I, over the course of three terms, increased from 3.26 to 3.50 on a 4.0 scale. Enrollment statements showed that almost 70% of scholarship recipients were currently continuing their academic studies at TVI on scholarship.
- Three college graduates who received funding from the Pathways program are now teaching in the APS district.

ENLACE New Mexico	
<i>Main Categories</i>	<i>Number Served</i>
<i>Professional Development</i> <i>ENLACE gives teachers opportunities for professional and academic development.</i>	• 60
<i>Parental Involvement/Education</i> <i>ENLACE involves parents: in their children’s education; in the classroom; and in learning opportunities for Spanish-speaking adults.</i>	• 300
<i>Academic Support</i> <i>ENLACE provides general advisement and counseling services to high school and college students, student scholarships, and literacy development.</i>	• 248
<i>Mentoring / Tutoring</i> <i>ENLACE mentors and tutors middle school, high school, and college students in order to improve self-esteem, literacy, study skill, and retention in school</i>	• 716
<i>Curriculum</i> <i>ENLACE promotes curriculum to meet the needs of targeted students including the use of literature written by Latino authors.</i>	• 371

ENLACE Lessons Learned:

- Effective program recruitment and selection balances need with ability to commit to ENLACE programs. Often the students who are most accessible and willing to participate are not those with the greatest academic needs.
- Teachers are challenged to meet student needs when basic classroom materials are not provided.
- Effective communication of program objectives among teachers, administrators, program managers, and evaluators is essential to support ENLACE goals.
- The level of staff commitment appears to be a strong contributor to program effectiveness.
- Changes in program organization may be required to adapt to local school conditions.
- Abrupt changes in data collection methods affect the evaluation process and findings across multiple sites.
- Research based programs like AVID, if implemented according to the model are more likely to have a positive effect on student retention and achievement.

Events and Activities

Highlights from ENLACE sponsored activities in Northern NM and Albuquerque

Event and Activity Type	Number of Events	Number of ENLACE participants
Student Leadership <i>Student development activities are designed to develop leadership skills in participants by teaching new skills such as risk-taking, decision-making and research .</i>	6	265
Professional Leadership <i>These events include conferences and workshops attended by education professionals. (AVID Training, etc.)</i>	8	291
College Awareness <i>These events encourage students to continue their education after graduating from high school and attend a university or community college .</i>	4	1,245
Family / Community Involvement <i>Family/community involvement activities strive to incorporate family and community members in active roles in their students' education. These include parent trainings, workshops, GED classes, etc.</i>	11	3,515
Policy <i>Policy events include activities that emphasize the importance of systemic change such as school board meetings, meetings with various political figures in the community and legislators.</i>	17	902
Budget and Financial Sustainability <i>Events and activities that focus on sustainability seek additional funds that would ensure ENLACE's future efforts. These include applying to various foundations and organizing major fundraisers.</i>	3	5,058



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