

# University of New Mexico

## Institute for Social Research

Prepared for: ENgaging Latino Communities for Education (ENLACE) in New Mexico

### Highlights to Date

- ENLACE programs have evolved and changed with the goal of meeting the needs of students and families to improve academic achievement and graduation rates.
- ENLACE in New Mexico has actively worked to infuse into key stakeholder groups information and models that stimulate changes to policies and practices related to the education of Latinos.
- ENLACE in New Mexico strives to incorporate best practices into its programs and support the creation or adoption of educational models based on the framework for success to improve enrollment, academic performance and graduation rates of Hispanic high school and college students.
- Through December 2003 ENLACE in New Mexico has provided services to almost 5,000 students and their families.
- ENLACE in New Mexico has held numerous events in which almost 19,000 individuals have participated.
- The Albuquerque High School Family Center since mid-2001 has conducted 235 community "knock and talks." Family Center staff estimate that "knock and talks" have resulted in 40 students returning to school.
- ENLACE in Northern New Mexico has trained teachers who now use AVID techniques routinely in their classes. This amounts to 737 students.
- Students in the TVI Ambassador program express an interest in becoming teachers in APS and have maintained consistently high GPAs while in the program.

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## SUMMARY of ENLACE In New Mexico: ENgaging LATino Communities for Education

*ENLACE is a national, multi-million dollar effort funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to help communities weave together existing programs and introduce new ones that increase opportunities for Hispanics to enter and complete college. Kellogg funds 13 partnerships in seven states. Partnerships are collections of individual projects that have common goals, objectives, strategies, and support interventions. Each project defines goals and objectives based on local needs and shares information with partner projects. Networking and sharing across success stories is encouraged in ENLACE. The Kellogg Foundation approves funds to assist with networking, sharing, evaluation, communication, and dissemination of best practice programs learned in ENLACE partnerships.*

### ENLACE IN NEW MEXICO

The state of New Mexico received three separate ENLACE grants (Northern New Mexico, Southern New Mexico, and Albuquerque) in addition to a statewide grant - ENLACE in New Mexico) ENLACE in New Mexico is a collaboration that intends to combine the strengths and assets of the three projects in order to maximize their impact statewide. The over-arching goal is to empower the community, students and educators in New Mexico to affect positive change in our public educational system, leading to increased student success, not just for Hispanics, but for all students.

### STRENGTHS WOVEN TOGETHER

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

Collectively, the ENLACE in New Mexico leadership implements marketing, communication, information dissemination, evaluation, and policy development strategies to raise public awareness of ENLACE issues, projects, and successes. This piece of the statewide partnership involves collecting relevant information, announcements, and data from local site directors who forward it to the partnership director for dissemination. The partnership maintains the ENLACE New Mexico web site, brochures, and information packets.

For evaluation purposes, the UNM Institute for Social Research has organized the programs of ENLACE New Mexico into five categories. These categories summarize the goal of the programs, i.e., professional development; parental involvement/education; academic support, mentoring/tutoring, and curriculum.



- On average students who have participated in the Student Success Diagnostic program at UNM have been retained at a higher rate than other students and have maintained a 2.9 GPA.
- A survey of the mentors, students being mentored and teachers who had students being mentored in the Los Compañeros program in May 2003 found that the program was helpful. Specifically, teachers reported having students in the program who were positively effected in terms of their behavior in class and their academic achievement.
- Research findings suggest that the HTP scholarships help relieve some of the financial burden posed by attending college full-time; in fact, a number of recipients made reference to their financial inability to attend college prior to having received their ENLACE award.
- Pathways to EXITO at NMSU finds that the overall experience is positive and the program helps students better understand the importance of higher education. Students are given the opportunity to create stronger relationships with each other. Changes made to the program format show promise as 89% of the students in the freshman ENLACE course received passing credit.
- Parent University at NMSU - a survey suggests that the program had a positive impact on participants' lives. Participants felt that the program had improved their skills to advocate effectively for their children and others in the community. Five former parent participants have formed a "Parent Leadership Team" to lead the program.
- In the 2003-2004 school year, ENLACE in Northern New Mexico expanded, more than tripling the number of students served. ENLACE classes in Northern New Mexico grew from three to nine, and from 42 students directly served to 172 students in classes that meet every day to provide academic tools and support.
- ENLACE in Northern New Mexico sponsored a series of workshops to provide parents with important information about college and ways to encourage and support greater educational achievement.
- In the Fall Semester of 2003 (August 2003 – December 2003) the three Albuquerque Family Centers at Albuquerque High School, Valley High School and West Mesa High School had more than 1,200 different students visit the centers more than 5,300 times.

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## ENLACE New Mexico

Main Categories	Number Served
<i>Professional Development</i>	207
<i>Parental Involvement/ Education</i>	1,683
<i>Academic Support</i>	788
<i>Mentoring / Tutoring</i>	857
<i>Curriculum</i>	1,378

## NORTHERN NEW MEXICO

### The Northern New Mexico

ENLACE project is comprised of three programs based at three public institutions of higher education: Santa Fe Community College, Northern New Mexico Community College, and the New Mexico Highlands University Center for Education and Study of Diverse Populations.

In year two, ENLACE has expanded into middle school and high school classes in Santa Fe, Española, and Las Vegas. The colleges and university have partnered with local high schools and a middle school to develop a college preparation program for underachieving students who will be the first in their families to attend college. The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) curricula was adopted at Española Valley High School, Carlos F. Vigil Middle School in Española, and Robertson High School in Las Vegas. Santa Fe ENLACE, serving students at Santa Fe High School and Capital High School through Santa Fe Community College has developed a model called LEAP. The LEAP model focuses on leadership, educational access, academic support, and parental involvement. The five schools offer LEAP as electives that meet daily.

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## ALBUQUERQUE

**ENLACE in Albuquerque** supports programs in three Albuquerque school clusters: West Mesa High/Garfield Middle School; Albuquerque High/Washington Middle School; Valley High/Truman Middle School; as well as Del Norte High; and recent expansion into Bernalillo High School. The Albuquerque site also operates retention programs at the main campus of the University of New Mexico and the Technical Vocational-Institute.

ENLACE in Albuquerque has developed a three-pronged approach: 1) Enhance Family and Community Involvement and Education; 2) Develop Effective Retention Programs; and 3) Improve Professional Career Paths. To accomplish this approach, the Albuquerque site is striving to enhance professional development among Hispanic teachers. It is also working to incorporate culturally relevant literature into the standard curriculum, expose middle school student to high school and college environments, and retain Hispanic college students to graduation. Albuquerque ENLACE supports eight programs. Chicano Studies exposes students to Hispanic history and literature. Educational Access Rooms (EARs) gives students an opportunity to pickup high school credits. Family Centers' enlist parents to support the needs of students and families. Los Compañeros hires UNM undergraduates as mentors for Hispanic sixth graders. Pathways to Teaching give scholarships to Hispanic undergraduates from UNM and TV-I who are pursuing careers in education. Se Puede - Summer Bridge focuses on reading and language arts



- SNM ENLACE & Las Cruces Public School Board are collaborating through an ACTION Team to determine barriers and best practices to the educational success of Hispanic students.
- Ten college students who received funding to complete their degree in teaching at UNM are teaching in the APS district. Five college students will graduate from UNM in May and begin teaching in the APS district in August 2004.
- 71 Future Educators have worked with over 400 APS school children in a variety of classrooms, including Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Multi-age, Mid School Bilingual, Special Education, Bilingual, and English as a Second Language Classrooms.
- ENLACE in Northern New Mexico is changing the culture of high schools. Students tutor other students, discuss college plans, enroll in advanced placement classes to meet university requirements. Parents attend workshops and site team meetings, while teachers gain confidence in their abilities to teach students who are underachieving and conduct in-service training to teach techniques to other teachers.

skills for Hispanic students. The TV-I Ambassadors program assists Hispanic TV-I students who want to attain a bachelor's degree. UNM Student Success Diagnostic program works with incoming freshmen that graduate from the three-targeted clusters in Albuquerque.

## SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

The **Southern New Mexico ENLACE Collaborative** is piloting academic and community programs that will result in the increased academic achievement of Latino students in the K20 education system. The Southern NM ENLACE Collaborative brings together schools, families, and communities to collaborate in the transformation of education systems for the academic success of all students.

## Events and Activities


Highlights from ENLACE activities in Northern NM, Southern NM, and Albuquerque

Event and Activity Type	Number of Events	Number of ENLACE participants
<b>Student Leadership</b> <i>Student activities are designed to develop leadership skills teaching new skills such as risk-taking, decision-making and research .</i>	36	1,888
<b>Professional Leadership</b> <i>These events include conferences and workshops attended by education professionals, e.g., AVID Training</i>	24	846
<b>College Awareness</b> <i>These events encourage students to continue their education after graduating from high school and attend a university or community college .</i>	16	1,478
<b>Family / Community Involvement</b> <i>These include activities that strive to incorporate family and community members in active roles in their students' education. These include parent trainings, workshops, GED classes, etc.</i>	44	11,015
<b>Policy</b> <i>Policy events include activities emphasizing the importance of systemic change such as school board meetings, meetings with legislators and community leaders.</i>	41	1,799
<b>Budget and Financial Sustainability</b> <i>Events or activities that focus on additional funds that would ensure ENLACE's future, e.g., applying to various foundations and organizing fundraisers.</i>	6	783

Southern ENLACE concentrates its efforts in the Las Cruces Public Schools District, Gadsden Independent School District, Hatch Valley School District, Dona Ana Branch Community College (DABCC) and New Mexico State University (NMSU). The three school districts have higher percentages of Hispanic students than the state average, while DABCC and NMSU also serve a significant percentage of Hispanic students.

All Southern NM ENLACE programs have an established group of students, which allows us to determine the effect of an ENLACE intervention on the academic success of Hispanic students. All programs are designed to address the five ENLACE goals.

Mayfield ENLACE is an after school one credit course that is using the Saber y Hacer curriculum and the Seven Habits of Successful Teens. The Picacho ENLACE program is increasing reading levels through the Hispanic literature curriculum and

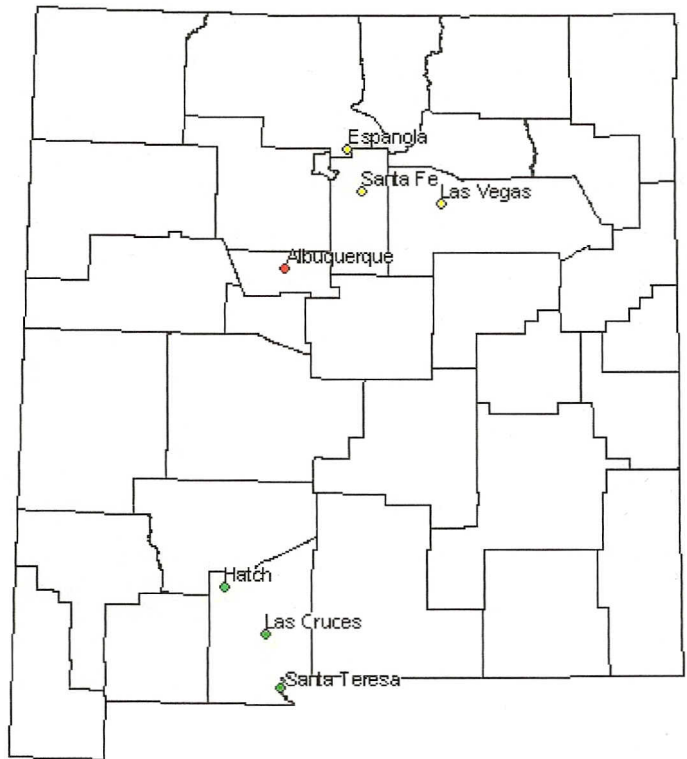
career exploration. Through the use of the Saber y Hacer curriculum and Hispanic literature, the Hatch Valley High School ENLACE Club motivates and prepares students for college. Santa Teresa High School Tech Ed is increasing reading levels through technology, peer mentoring, and Hispanic literature. Pathways to EXITO! is focused on the retention of freshman students at NMSU and the transition of the community college students to NMSU. Parent University hosts "Family Festival" workshops designed to help parents become their children's coaches and advocates. 

*"Hispanic instructors are role models of what I can become."*

*"I thought the program was a great activity. It helped me out with a lot of things I didn't understand"*

*"I want students to know that there are Hispanic women who are educated; and that all dreams are attainable"*

*"I was . . . able to teach . . . [a] small group [and that] really helped. I was better able to focus on the students as individuals."*



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## **Participating universities, colleges, and school districts**

- University of New Mexico
- New Mexico State University
- New Mexico Highlands University
- Santa Fe Community College
- Northern New Mexico Community College
- Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute
- Dona Ana Branch Community College
- Albuquerque Public School District
- Santa Fe Public School District
- Las Vegas City Public School District
- Las Cruces Public School District
- Espanola Public School District
- Hatch Valley Public School District
- Gadsden Independent School District