

ISSUE  
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NEW MEXICO  
SCHOOL COUNSELORS'  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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*NM School Counselors' Community of Best Practice*

## EMPOWERING STUDENT SUCCESS: CAREER ADVISING AND CTE EDUCATION

*CCRB TO HOST ADVANCE CTE FREE WORKSHOPS FOR COUNSELORS JUNE 8-9*



The New Mexico Public Education Department's College and Career Readiness Bureau was one

of 30 states selected to host Advance CTE's free two-day virtual workshops for counselors to strengthen career advising and Career Technical Education. These comprehensive trainings, held on June 8-9, are designed for school counselors and advisors who provide direct career pathway guidance to students.

Advance CTE will facilitate the workshops from 9 a.m. to noon each day in a virtual environment. The workshops are delivered by qualified facilitators experienced in working with school counselors.

Advance CTE launched the career advising workshops in partnership with the Association for Career Technical Education (ACTE) and the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) in 2019. They have reached over 600 school counselors to increase awareness of CTE and provide effective strategies to advance career exploration and development for each learner.

For learners to successfully navigate their path to career and college success, they need to be fully informed about CTE and the opportunities it offers to explore and gain skills in a career about which they are passionate. Research from Advance CTE shows that school counselors and educators are top sources for families to receive information about CTE, yet they often lack

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## 2022 RMACAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE (UPDATE)

Due to unexpected delays to renovations at Hotel Albuquerque, RMACAC is moving the Annual Conference to the [Hyatt Regency Albuquerque](#). We are very excited about this location and its proximity to downtown Albuquerque.

**If you have already booked your room at Hotel Albuquerque, you do not need to take any action.** Hotel Albuquerque room reservations were automatically transferred to the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque on Monday, March 21. You should have received both a reservation cancellation email from Hotel Albuquerque **AND** a new reservation confirmation from the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque. This new reservation should mirror your original reservation details.

If you have not booked your room yet, the nightly rate will remain the same and the [booking link](#) is updated on the [Annual Conference website](#).

If you haven't done so already, you can register [here](#) to reserve your spot to take part in #RMACACrising in Albuquerque this April.

If you have any questions, please contact [Alex Nuñez](#).

## EMPOWERING STUDENT SUCCESS: CAREER ADVISING AND CTE EDUCATION

*CCRB TO HOST ADVANCE CTE FREE WORKSHOPS FOR COUNSELORS JUNE 8-9  
(CONTINUED)*

capacity and full knowledge about the value and opportunities available through CTE.

This workshop, while designed for school counselors, is open to all school practitioners and leaders connected to career advising at your discretion. This opportunity is generously supported by the [Siemens Foundation](#).

Registration opens soon. Here are some workshop specifics:

- Cost is free.
- This workshop, delivered in two half-day sessions, will provide school counselors and other advising professionals with the information and resources they need to connect students with opportunities aligned with their career passions.
- Participants will emerge with an enhanced knowledge of the full range of education and career options, with a specific focus on Career Technical Education (CTE).

Goals of the workshops include:

- Identifying and discussing various components and benefits of high-quality CTE programs, including work-based learning, industry-recognized credentials and dual credit;
- Discussing the range of options available in CTE along with current workforce trends and how to access information on CTE programs and the labor market in New Mexico;
- Gaining effective strategies to assist secondary students with career exploration and development to implement in their community;
- Addressing implicit bias and equity to advance access to CTE and career advising for each learner; and
- Developing strategic actions to reach students, families, administrators, other counselors and/or other stakeholders to communicate the value of CTE.

The workshop capacity is limited to 30 attendees to allow robust participation and engagement.

For information on the workshop, please contact [Barbara.Armijo@state.nm.us](mailto:Barbara.Armijo@state.nm.us).

**Empowering Students  
through Career Technical  
Education & Career  
Advising**

## NEW MEXICO STUDENT WINS \$40,000 COLLEGE BOARD SCHOLARSHIP

*WINNERS SURPRISED BY ANNOUNCEMENT ON NATIONAL TELEVISION SHOW*

Tularosa High School senior Lexi Gallegos was surprised on national television last month with news that she is one of 31 students across the nation to receive a \$40,000 college scholarship.

Gallegos learned she will receive the BigFuture scholarship from the College Board during a virtual appearance with 24 other recipients on ABC's *Good Morning America* television show.



The students were invited to appear virtually on *Good Morning America* for what they were told was a news segment on college planning, and 25 – including Gallegos – accepted. All 25 were shown in squares on a video board behind the set. Hands flew to faces and unmuted microphones picked up expressions of joy when BigFuture's senior vice president Tarlin Ray announced they'd each receive a \$40,000 scholarship.

"I was pretty stunned," Gallegos said afterward. "I never expected to get a scholarship today."

Those who know Lexi said they weren't shocked that she received a scholarship, which is something she has earned throughout her high school career. Tularosa Assistant Principal Jody Hill, agreed, saying Gallegos has worked hard to prepare for college.

*"I love all my students but I couldn't ask for a better student to get it. Congratulations, Lexi, on all your hard work."*

Gallegos said she plans to attend New Mexico State University and major in

(Continued on page 4)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL 7 AND APRIL 14

- **Career-Connected Webinars** – Join NS4ed for parts 2 & 3 of their Career-connected Learning Series. [Learn More and Register](#)
  - **April 7, 2022 – 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm MT** Part 2: Successfully launch & sustain career-connected learning
  - **April 14, 2022 – 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm MT** Part 3: Demonstrate results of career-connected learning and maintain momentum

### APRIL 20

- **NM School Counselors' Community Monthly Meeting** – Join us at 3:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting. [Learn More and Register](#)

## HELP THE FAA PROMOTE AVIATION CAREERS

The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) [Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force](#) is providing recommendations to the FAA to encourage students to pursue in-demand careers in aviation. The task force is seeking input from middle and high school counselors to help develop strategies to educate youth on career opportunities in aviation. If you're interested in contributing to this work, please take this short five-to seven-minute survey by clicking [HERE](#).

## MARCH WINNER!



Congratulations to an elementary counselor from Albuquerque Public Schools! She is the March winner of a \$50 Amazon gift certificate for posting on one or more of the Collaboration boards on the New Mexico School Counselors' Community [resource website](#).

Each Thursday, we send out an email with a new Community Collaboration activity. Entries for the monthly drawing are limited to one per counselor per week.

**CTE  
SCHOLARSHIPS:  
500 AWARDS  
FOR UP TO  
\$2,500 EACH**

The Career & Technical Scholarship Program is funded through the generosity of Mr. James F. Dicke II and Mr. Dennis R. Washington. Scholarships are awarded to students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their lives and wish to pursue a career or technical education at an accredited community college or technical school in the United States. Counselors, if you know a graduating senior who should apply, please let them know now. The deadline is June 30.

To review requirements, eligibility criteria and apply visit: [2022 Horatio Alger Career & Technical Scholarship](#)

Funds may be used for tuition, fees, books, and supplies. All scholarship funds are paid directly to the institution on behalf of the recipient.

**NEW MEXICO STUDENT WINS \$40,000  
COLLEGE BOARD SCHOLARSHIP**  
*WINNERS SURPRISED BY ANNOUNCEMENT ON  
NATIONAL TELEVISION SHOW*  
(CONTINUED)

criminal justice with the goal of becoming a game and fish warden.

Of the 31 students receiving a \$40,000 scholarship, 27 are Class of 2022 students and four are current juniors in the Class of 2023.

The not-for-profit [College Board](#) provides resources including the Advanced Placement® Program and the SAT® to promote excellence and equity in education. It launched the scholarship program in 2018 to encourage students to prepare for college.

Students are automatically entered into monthly drawings for \$500 prizes just by completing College Board’s steps required to plan for college – making a college list, studying for the SAT, and completing a FAFSA form, for example. Students whose families earn less than \$60,000 a year have extra chances at scholarships because they’re eligible for two entries for each drawing.

Students who make it through all six steps are entered into the drawing for \$40,000 scholarships.

Since the program began, more than one million students have participated and over \$10 million in scholarships have been awarded.

**CONTACT US**

**NMPED COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BUREAU**  
CLICK [HERE](#) TO VISIT WEBSITE

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[NM SCHOOL COUNSELORS COMMUNITY RESOURCE SITE](#)

## CLASS OF 2023 STUDENTS NOW ELIGIBLE TO WIN COLLEGE BOARD BIGFUTURE SCHOLARSHIPS

Just as Tularosa High School senior Lexi Gallegos earned a \$40,000 scholarship, Class of 2023 students are now eligible for scholarships through BigFuture, the College Board’s online guide. BigFuture simplifies the path to life after high school by recommending small steps that all students—no matter their high school—can take at just the right time to explore career interests, identify potential majors, find colleges and scholarships, and access financial aid. It rewards the effort students take by providing chances at scholarships.

“Now more than ever, students need simple and credible tools to help them choose the college and career right for them,” said Tarlin Ray, College Board senior vice president of BigFuture. “We’ve integrated these scholarship steps into BigFuture so every student—no matter where they are on their journey to college—can take the small actions necessary to earn themselves a big future.”

All class of 2023 students are now eligible to win \$500 and \$40,000 scholarships they can use at two- or four-year institutions. There are no essays, test scores, citizenship status, family income, or minimum GPA requirements. Drawings for \$500 and \$40,000 are held every month. Students whose families earn less than \$60,000 per year have extra chances at scholarships and earn double the entries for every drawing. The sooner students complete the following steps and the more steps they take, the more access they’ll earn:

1. Build a College List: Students search for colleges and add six or more to their list.
2. Practice for the SAT: Students use Official SAT Practice at Khan Academy to prepare for test day.
3. Explore Scholarships: Students explore a personalized list of scholarships based on their background, achievements, and plans.
4. Strengthen their College List: Students make sure their list has a mix of reach, match, and safety schools.
5. Complete the FAFSA: Students complete the free government form to apply for financial aid.
6. Apply to Colleges: Students apply to at least two colleges they want to attend.

The College Board has dedicated \$25 million to the program that lays out the above six simple steps all students can take to college. More than \$14 million in scholarships have been awarded to more than 15,000 students since the program launched in December 2018. Class of 2023 students with College Board accounts in the United States, and U.S. territories will be automatically entered into monthly drawings for \$500 and \$40,000 by completing specific steps on [bigfuture.org](http://bigfuture.org).

## NMEAF’s MONEY MONDAYS EXTENDED THROUGH APRIL 25

**SAVE THE DATE!** FAFSA MONEY MONDAY “Virtual FAFSA Assistance”  
Time: 3PM – 6PM

Go to: <https://www.nmeaf.org/money-mondays>

**2022 FAFSA Assistance**

- March 7
- March 14
- March 21
- March 28
- April 4
- April 11
- April 18
- April 25

QR Code: FAFSA Money Monday Link

Logos: COLLEGE CONNECT, NEW MEXICO, ENLACE, New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation

### English Flyer

**Anote la fecha!!** FINANCIE SU FUTURO FAFSA MONEY MONDAYS  
Cada Lunes FAFSA LUNES DE LANA  
Time: 3pm – 6pm

Ayuda virtual para completar la solicitud de ayuda financiera para la Universidad o escuela técnica

Vaya a <https://www.nmeaf.org/money-mondays>

**Ayuda en 2022**

- Marzo 7
- Marzo 14
- Marzo 21
- Marzo 28
- Abril 4
- Abril 11
- Abril 18
- Abril 25

QR Code: Lunes de Lana

Logos: COLLEGE CONNECT, NEW MEXICO, ENLACE, New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation

### Spanish Flyer