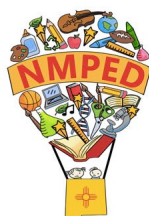


**EdUprising  
Conference  
2020**

# **Program Agenda**



## Jump to...

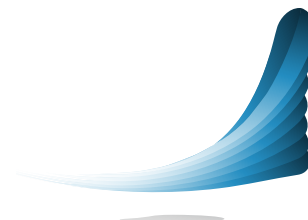
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**Agenda at-a-Glance** \_\_\_\_\_ **1**

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**Workshop Descriptions, Locations & Times** — **15**

**Partners and Sponsors** \_\_\_\_\_ **25**



**EdUprising  
Conference  
2020**

# AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

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**7:30 am** - Check-In // Breakfast [[Hall Corridor](#)]

**8:30 to 9:15 am** - Welcome: Tony Monfiletto, Future Focused + Dr. Gwen Warniment, NM Public Education Department [[Auditorium](#)]

**9:25 to 10:40 am**

- Education “Sufficiency” Is About Way More Than Money  
Edward Tabet-Cubero [[Room 113](#)]
- 8 Ideas That Are Transforming America’s Education System  
Susan Patrick [[Room 103](#)]
- Support Youth Activism and Movements\*  
Kenia Alonzo [[Auditorium](#)]
- Transforming Assessment Systems at the State and Local Level  
Paul Leather [[Room 112](#)]
- Raising Student Voice: How to Bring Storytelling into the Classroom\*  
Emily Hill [[Room 101](#)]

**10:50 am to 12:05 pm**

- This Is Not A Test: Assessment for Learning, Agency, and Equity  
Sarah Lench [[Room 113](#)]
- Portfolios, Capstones and More Inclusive Assessment Practices to Develop Meaningful Graduation Guidelines  
Dr. Gwen Warniment, Tony Monfiletto [[Room 103](#)]
- A Tricky Balance: The Challenges and Opportunities Associated with Implementing Balanced Systems of Assessment  
Scott Marion [[Room 101](#)]
- Turning Theory into Action: Implementing a District Graduate Profile  
Dr. Veronica Garcia [[Room 112](#)]
- Why We Need Social Emotional Learning Standards in New Mexico\*  
Cynthia Ramirez [[Auditorium](#)]

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**12:05 to 12:45 pm** - Lunch [[Hall Corridor](#)]

**12:45 to 1:30 pm** - Youth Panel: Local Wisdom through Student Voice  
Facilitator: Ali Moore [[Auditorium](#)]

**1:40 to 2:55 pm**

- Future Focused X3 - eXplore, eXperience and eXpand: The Power of Paid Internships to Transform Youth and Communities\*  
Mistie Gallegos, Mike May [[Room 101](#)]
- Learning from You While Building at Us  
Tim Ware [[Room 103](#)]
- Authentic and Meaningful Demonstrations of College and Career Readiness: Visioning a Student Capstone Community of Practice for New Mexico - Part 1  
Justin Trager, Lynn Vasquez, and Michael Soguero [[Auditorium](#)]
- Project Based Learning and Authentic Assessment  
Jonathan Flanakin [[Room 112](#)]

**3:05 to 4:20 pm**

- Mentorship and Youth of Color  
Tatiana Falcon Rodriguez [[Room 112](#)]
- Wellness is the Key to Student Achievement and Better Life Outcomes  
Duta Flying Earth [[Room 103](#)]
- Authentic and Meaningful Demonstrations of College and Career Readiness: Visioning a Student Capstone Community of Practice for New Mexico - Part 2  
Justin Trager, Lynn Vasquez, and Michael Soguero [[Auditorium](#)]
- Youth Voice through Policy Engagement\*  
Emma Jones [[Room 101](#)]

See full agenda, workshop descriptions, and workshop handouts online:  
[futurefocusededucation.org/eduprising](https://futurefocusededucation.org/eduprising)

\* youth encouraged to attend



# **Speakers & Presenters**



## Kenia Alonzo

Kenia is Navajo and Zuni Pueblo. She currently studies Natural Resources at the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute. She brings her sharp mind and dry humor to Generation Justice. As a Media Justice Intern, she assisted with social media, live streamed community events, and radio production by writing scripts and conducting interviews. Over the summer, Kenia worked and lived at the Grand Canyon as a member of a conservation crew that worked with the National Park Services.

Kenia has a significant activist background, helping lead her high school's March for Our Lives and playing an important role as an Indigenous youth activist in the Albuquerque community. She enjoys scary movies and walking her dogs.



## Anpao Duta Flying Earth

Duta graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Arts in Government, and an MBA as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at the University of New Mexico.

Duta joined NACA to assist in opening the charter school in 2006. In NACA's inaugural year, Duta served as an instructor and after-school coordinator. In the years since, Duta has also served as the school's Outreach and Community Programs Coordinator, the Director of Enrollment and Community Relations, Head of School, and Associate Director. He founded and taught the first Lakota language program in New Mexico, and taught Indigenous Studies. Now in his capacity as Executive Director at NACA, Duta has been instrumental in representing NACA as a premiere example of indigenous education nationwide.

Duta grew up on Standing Rock Reservation in South and North Dakota. He is Lakota, Dakota, Ojibwe, and Akimel O'odham. Duta is the youngest of three siblings and a third generation college graduate.



## Jonathan Flanakin

Jonathan Flanakin is Ortiz Middle School's technology teacher and social media manager. Before teaching in New Mexico, Jonathan taught middle school science, engineering and technology for several years in Missouri. Looking for a change of pace, he brought his skills to Ortiz Middle School in Santa Fe, where he now teaches a hybrid tech-entrepreneurship course named Startup Technology.

With support from his administration and the Network for Teachers of Entrepreneurship (NFTE), Flanakin pushes students to adopt an entrepreneurial mindset and create technological based solutions to help solve the problems they've identified within their community.



## Mistie Gallegos

As the Director of Operations, Mistie's primary role is to develop and manage the operations of Future Focused Education. In 2017, her work expanded to support the development, growth, and success of the X3 Internship program providing workforce training for high school students and continued support after graduation. This includes the development of a comprehensive on-boarding process to facilitate first time relationships between new mentors and high school interns. Her passion to help youth find and pursue their career interests was a result of her own experiences paired with supportive and caring mentorship during her life as a high school student.

Mistie was born and raised in the South Valley of Albuquerque, where she currently lives with her husband and three children. She attended New Mexico State University where she earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. She worked for Intel Corporation for 13 years, originally selected to participate in the first high school internship program offered at the Intel location in Rio Rancho, NM. Prior to joining the Future Focused team, she owned a business that offered recreational programs throughout Albuquerque and Rio Rancho where youth could participate in team activities and other opportunities within their own communities.



## Dr. Veronica Garcia

Dr. Veronica C. Garcia, Superintendent of Santa Fe Public Schools, has extensive experience working in the policy arena in various capacities, including serving as Executive Director for NM Voices for Children, Executive Director of the New Mexico Coalition of School Administrators, and New Mexico's first Cabinet Secretary of Education.

As Cabinet Secretary of Education, she advocated for the passage of many educational reforms including the state's Pre-K Act, Hispanic Education Act, programs that extend the school year for at-risk children (K-3 plus), and rigorous academic standards that were recognized nationally. She also pushed for a comprehensive approach to educational reform by advocating for increased funding for programs such as school-based health clinics, breakfast in the schools, and elementary physical education.

Under her leadership, New Mexico garnered top rankings for school reform, accountability systems, increased teacher quality, data quality, health and wellness policies, parental involvement, and college and career readiness.



## Emily Hill

Emily is a marketer, writer and storyteller. She has spent the last 10 years traveling the world as travel journalist and science reporter.

As Lead Trainer and Communications Strategist at MediaDesk, Emily specializes in social media, digital storytelling, and interactive workshops. With a background as an outdoor educator, speech coach and magazine editor, Emily leads engaging, hands-on workshops that encourage kinesthetic learning.



## Emma Jones

Emma Jones is a proud Burqueña, born and raised in the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her personal experience with homelessness, poverty, and oppression shaped her worldview and motivated her to seek healing and social justice for her community. She has dedicated her career to empowering youth and families to create change in their communities.

Emma now has 13 years of experience in grassroots community organizing, advocacy, civic engagement, and positive youth leadership development. She previously served as Youth Organizer and Co-Director for the SouthWest Organizing Project. During her time there she developed and lead intergenerational organizing campaigns that created and challenged local, state, and national policies that impacted disenfranchised communities in New Mexico and the greater Southwest.

She is also a small business owner, writer, photographer, artist, and TEDx speaker.





## Paul Leather

Paul Leather is Director for Local and State Partnerships at the Center for Innovation in Education. He leads the Inter-State Learning Community of eight states looking to transform their public educational practices, including assessment systems.

Previously, Paul served as the Deputy Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Education, and Director of the Division of Career Technology and Adult Learning for the Department, overseeing High School Redesign, Extended Learning Opportunities, and Dropout Prevention, as well as the administration of Vocational Rehabilitation, Adult Education, Career and Technical Education, Tech-Prep, and School Guidance and Counseling.



## Sarah Lench

Sarah is the Director of Learning Networks at the Center for Innovation in Education. Her colleagues have dubbed her the “Chief Curiosity Officer” due to her passion for cultivating spaces where partners from all levels of education systems can dig into complex questions through a process of shared inquiry and learning. Sarah directs the Assessment for Learning Project, a grant-making and field-building initiative inviting educators to fundamentally rethink the role of assessment for learning, agency, and equity.

Prior to joining CIE, Sarah was the Director of Policy and Innovation at the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC). An artist at heart, Sarah began her career working in nonprofit community arts and youth development, later conducting research and policy analyses on arts education for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and the Oregon Arts Commission.

Sarah founded a local network of parents and caregivers of children on the autism spectrum, and serves on the Special Education Advisory Board for her local school district in Corvallis, Oregon.



## Scott Marion

Scott Marion, Ph.D. is the President and Executive Director of the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (Center for Assessment). Scott's projects include designing and supporting states and districts in implementing assessment and accountability initiatives, providing technically-defensible policy guidance, and implementing high quality, locally-designed performance-based assessments. He is a national leader in designing innovative and comprehensive assessment systems to support instructional and accountability uses and is working to better conceptualize and implement high-quality balanced systems of assessment and accountability.

Scott coordinates and/or serves on five state or district Technical Advisory Committees for assessment, accountability and educator evaluation. He has served on multiple National Research Council committees.

Prior to joining the Center for Assessment in early 2003, Scott was the Director of Assessment and Accountability for the Wyoming Department of Education; he began his career as a field biologist and high school science teacher.



## Mike May

As Future Focused Education's Director for Workforce Learning, Mike May focuses on creating an ecosystem in Albuquerque in which local youth can access pathways to employment and industry training. Drawing on his prior domestic and international experience as a teacher and Director/Principal of Amy Biehl High School in Albuquerque and the Ecole d'Humanité in Switzerland, Mike collaborates with schools and local employers to create paid internships for high school students.

A native of southern Virginia, Mike earned a BA in German and Government from the College of William and Mary, an MA in German and Second Language Acquisition from the University of Illinois, and a certificate in Educational Leadership from Northeastern University. He has lived and worked internationally in Germany, Switzerland, and Honduras. Mike can frequently be found at different elevations throughout the 505 pursuing whitewater kayaking, paddleboarding, biking or swing dancing.



## Ali Moore

As the Director of Student Support at Future Focused Education, Ali develops asset-driven, trauma-informed and inclusive school practices in order to increase schools' capacity to set students up for success, while promoting school cultures of support for all.

Prior to her role with Future Focused Education, Ali developed and managed the case management program within the UNM School Based Health Centers. Most recently, she worked alongside stakeholders and students from Siembra and Health Leadership High School to open a peer-support drop-in center for transition-age opportunity youth (16-22 years old).

Ali was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. With over 10 years of social work experience, she holds both a Masters in Social Work (MSW), with an International Concentration, from Dominican University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Pacific University. Additionally, she has two years of field work experience in Tanzania, with additional experience in Rwanda, Kenya, Ecuador and Bangladesh and involvement supporting programs in Sri Lanka.



## Susan Patrick

Susan Patrick is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Aurora Institute (formerly iNACOL), a nonprofit providing policy advocacy, publishing research, developing quality standards, and driving the transformation to personalized, competency-based education forward.

She is the former Director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education and wrote the National Educational Technology Plan in 2005 for Congress. She served as legislative liaison for Governor Hull in Arizona, ran a distance learning campus as a Site Director for Old Dominion University's TELETECHNET program, and served as legislative staff on Capitol Hill.

Patrick was awarded an Eisenhower Fellowship in 2016. In 2014, she was named a Pahara-Aspen Education Fellow. In 2011, she was named to the International Advisory Board for the European Union program for lifelong learning.



## Cynthia Ramirez

Cynthia Ramirez, MSW, LCSW, LSSW, is a Chicana born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Cynthia holds a BA in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminology, a BA in Psychology with an emphasis in Addictions both earned from the University of New Mexico and a Masters in Social Work Degree from New Mexico Highlands University.

She is currently the Director of Student Support at Technology Leadership High School. Cynthia dedicated 11 years of her career as a school social worker for the Albuquerque Public Schools. She is a Deeper Learning Equity Fellow, a board member of GLSEN Albuquerque, Co-Founder/Co-Facilitator of the Greater ABQ Safe Zone Consortium and is a certified Professional Development Trainer. Her career experience reflects her passion and commitment to serving and advocating for LGBTQ youth, gang-involved youth, young people of color and students in the Albuquerque area. In her spare time, Cynthia teaches fitness classes as a certified Zumba Instructor. She loves spending time with her family and friends, baking and reading.



## Tatiana Falcon Rodriguez

Tatiana is a Supervisor for Community Programs at Presbyterian Community Health, a department of Presbyterian Healthcare Services in Albuquerque, NM. She is a key advisor on community engagement and health equity for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health cooperative agreement. She has also co-designed, planned, and implemented New Mexico's first Food Farmacy program as part of Presbyterian.

Prior to her work at Presbyterian, Tatiana worked at Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains as an HIV Prevention Specialist and Bilingual Health Educator.

Tatiana has her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Puerto Rico Rio Piedras campus, a Master of Arts degree in Women's Studies from the University of Florida in Gainesville, and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of New Mexico.



## Michael Soguero

Michael Soguero has been a leader in education reform since 1993. Michael became the Co-Director of an Expeditionary Learning School, the School for the Physical City, in New York City and later the Founder and Director of a Big Picture Learning school, the Bronx Guild, where his work was held up as an exemplar of effective small school leadership.

Michael served as a lead facilitator for the Scaffolded Apprenticeship Model program within the New York City Leadership Academy where he sharpened his facilitation skills, his broad understanding of urban school reform, and the power of dynamic leadership as a means to reform schools and change the lives of students.

Michael led the Professional Development Center at Eagle Rock for 12 years expanding its impact nationally to hundreds of secondary schools to increase student engagement and achievement.



## Justin Trager

Justin Trager is the Director of School Networks at Future Focused Education in Albuquerque, NM. The focus of his work has been facilitating the growth, learning, and innovation of the schools in the Leadership Schools Network.

Justin has spent over 20 years in education working as a service learning coordinator, teacher, and administrator. Justin serves on the NM Student Success Task Force and is collaborating with NMPED to build out innovative and authentic assessment options as part of a Menu of Options to Demonstrate College and Career Readiness.

Justin is a Deeper Learning Equity Fellow and is passionate about the power of public education to empower and transform individuals and communities.



## Lynn Vàsquez

Lynn Vàsquez has over 18 years of experience in managing large-scale testing programs and has held education leadership positions at the local, state, national and federal levels. In her current capacity as the State Assessment Director for the New Mexico Public Education Department, Lynn works with a team focused on redesigning an assessment system that allows for multiple ways of measuring student learning.

In a prior role, Lynn worked at the Maryland Department of Education where she was committed to ensuring students with disabilities and English learners were able to participate in the National Assessment for Education Progress without barriers. In 2006 she was awarded the Liberty Bell Award by the Topeka Bar Association for her work in civic literacy, and was invited by the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. to share her work on advancing international education in schools in 2008.

She is most proud of her six years spent as a middle school history teacher in Kansas and her four years as principal in New Mexico schools.



## Edward Tabet-Cubero

Currently the Executive Director for the Learning Alliance of New Mexico, Edward Tabet-Cubero has over 20 years of experience in the education and nonprofit sectors, including having served as the Executive Director of the NM Center on Law and Poverty and Associate Director of Dual Language Education of New Mexico.

Edward has promoted educational equity for diverse learners as a classroom teacher in southern New Mexico, award-winning school administrator, dual language education consultant, non-profit administrator, and university instructor. In 2014, he was selected as a WKKF Community Leadership Network Fellow where he continues to apply his skills in collaboration with a leadership cohort across a variety of sectors to improve outcomes for families in New Mexico. Also active in legislative advocacy, Edward has co-authored multiple bills related to bilingual education and teacher preparation, and has served as an expert witness for the New Mexico Legislature.

Edward holds a Masters in Education in Bilingual Curriculum and Instruction, and a B.A. in Foreign Languages and Latin American Studies, from New Mexico State University.





## Tim Ware

Tim Ware has held multiple senior level executive roles and has nearly two decades of experience in community-based public service.

In 2006, as a Teach For America corps member, he taught social studies at Frayser High School. In 2008, he was granted a position in the nationally recognized and highly selective Building Excellent Schools Fellowship after which he founded and led Veritas College Preparatory Charter School. Veritas College Prep has earned many distinctions under Ware's leadership, including recognition by the Tennessee Department of Education for being in the top five percent of all schools in the state for student growth.

In 2015, Ware heeded the call to serve the most vulnerable students in Tennessee by joining the Achievement Schools District and overseeing the turnaround of chronically underperforming schools. Tim's current body of work focuses on creating alternative on-ramps into the workforce for young people who have not found success through traditional K-12 and four-year college/university programs.



## Dr. Gwendolyn Warniment

Gwen serves as the Deputy Secretary for Teaching and Learning for the New Mexico Public Education Department. With over two decades of experience supporting public education, Gwen has taught across the elementary to post-secondary landscape, chiefly focused on bilingual, STEM education.

Before joining NM PED, Gwen was the Program Director for the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation with a portfolio that included direct programming, advocacy, and grant making in support of public education. In this role, she directed various initiatives to support teacher retention in rural districts, socio-emotional support systems and professional learning for educators, as well as a consortium designed to build educator capacity in inquiry science and the Next Generation Science Standards.

Gwen holds a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from New Mexico State University.



# **Workshop descriptions**



## Education “Sufficiency” is About Way More than Money

**9:25-10:40 / Room 113**

Edward Tabet-Cubero, Executive Director for the Learning Alliance of New Mexico

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In July of 2018, the court declared New Mexico’s public education system constitutionally insufficient and gave the State until April 15, 2019, to provide all students a “sufficient” education. That has not happened. Certain subgroups of students have historically been underserved, and the entire system has been starved of resources, so where do we go from here?

## 8 Ideas that Are Transforming America’s Education System

**9:25-10:40 / Room 103**

Susan Patrick, President and Chief Executive Officer at the Aurora Institute

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Drawing on national and international examples of curriculum redesign, Susan Patrick will show how schools can move away from the inherent limits of rigid curriculum frameworks. Some examples include awarding credits based on schedules and course descriptions that are narrow. Curriculum Redesign allows for more holistic approaches to teaching and learning and better prepares young people for the realities of an unknown future.

## Support Youth Activism and Movements\*

**9:25-10:40 / Auditorium**

Kenia Alonzo, Natural Resources Student at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

---

Kenia Alonzo will be presenting on youth activism and movements. She will be showcasing the importance and impact of past and ongoing youth movements and their leaders. Learn how we can better support youth activists and understand their cause.

\* youth encouraged to attend

## Transforming Assessment Systems at the State and Local Level

**9:25-10:40 / Room 112**

Paul Leather, Director for Local and State Partnerships at the Center for Innovation in Education

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Paul Leather draws on his experience from states around the country who have transformed their assessment systems. His vision begins with building the capacity of teachers to reimagine student learning and assessment to reflect the skills and knowledge that will be needed in the future. His work is rooted in changing the culture of teaching and learning and building assessment systems that reflect that new vision.

## Raising Student Voice: How to Bring Storytelling into the Classroom\*

**9:25-10:40 / Room 101**

Emily Hill, Communications Strategist at MediaDesk

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What is school for, and who gets to decide? Students and teachers are often excluded from answering these questions, when they are often the best experts. Storytelling is a powerful way to raise their voices.

In this session, Emily Hill will share how MediaDesk conceptualized and built the “If You Ask Me...” galleries. Interact with these augmented reality exhibits showcasing student and teacher voices from across New Mexico. Using this framework, Emily will help participants design their own storytelling event to help raise student voices in the classroom. Learn how storytelling exercises build connections, deepen relationships, and fundamentally change our conversations about what is possible for schools.

\* youth encouraged to attend

## **This Is Not A Test: Assessment for Learning, Agency, and Equity**

### **10:50-12:05 / Room 113**

Sarah Lench, Director at Assessment for Learning Project, Chief Curiosity Officer at Center for Innovation in Education

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For the past four years, the Assessment for Learning Project (ALP) has brought together a national network of educators and system leaders who are fundamentally rethinking the role of assessment in K-12 public education. In this workshop, we'll lift up insights from the ALP network to explore the principles, practices, and core shifts in mindsets and behaviors necessary to move a classroom, school, district, and system in the direction of assessment for learning, agency, and equity.

Participants will be invited to reflect on your current approaches to assessment, identify unique assets and challenges in your local contexts, constellate those assets and challenges with peers in the room, and create a shared learning agenda for rethinking assessment in New Mexico.

## **Portfolios, Capstones and More Inclusive Assessment Practices to Develop Meaningful Graduation Guidelines**

### **10:50-12:05 / Room 103**

Dr. Gwen Warniment, Deputy Secretary for Teaching and Learning for the New Mexico Public Education Department  
Tony Monfiletto, Executive Director, Future Focused Education

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We hope to leverage the flexibility in our current policy framework to create equally rigorous options for students to graduate readiness to graduate. We expect to embed work based learning, performance assessments and Senior Capstones in a way that is more responsive to our local communities. Join the Deputy Secretary to envision options for growing this work throughout New Mexico.

## **A Tricky Balance: The Challenges and Opportunities Associated with Implementing Balanced Systems of Assessment**

### **10:50-12:05 / Room 101**

Scott Marion, President and Executive Director of the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (Center for Assessment)

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The call for balanced systems of assessment was born from a recognition that most assessments were doing a poor job of serving a primary purpose—improving learning and instruction. Educators understand that large-scale summative tests are too distal from instruction, at the wrong grain size, and administered at the wrong time of year to make a difference in their daily practice. Therefore, the calls to balance—actually rebalance—assessment systems were motivated by desires to enhance the utility of the system for improving learning and teaching. Dr. Marion co-facilitated the New Mexico Task Force for Student Success and will discuss opportunities for New Mexico to shift towards more balanced systems of assessment, especially those that include performance-based assessments to support improved instruction.

## **Turning Theory into Action: Implementing a District Graduate Profile**

### **10:50-12:05 / Room 112**

Dr. Veronica Garcia, Superintendent of Santa Fe Public Schools

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The Santa Fe Public Schools has spent the past year developing a graduate profile that reflects an innovative framework that reflects the values and beliefs of the community and prepares students for lifelong success. This session will focus on the ways in which Santa Fe Public Schools will continue to work with the community to develop a framework that informs implementation and measurement of the profile across the district.

## Why We Need Social Emotional Learning Standards in New Mexico\*

### 10:50-12:05 / Auditorium

Cynthia Ramirez, LCSW, LSSW, Director of Student Support at Technology Leadership High School

---

Social emotional learning can take many forms in how it should be implemented in a school setting. This workshop will examine how a school established social emotional learning as one of the foundational objectives of its mission and how it is operationalizing the development of young people at the forefront in educating them. Educators will learn how to utilize a design think model to integrate social emotional learning strategies to strive towards an equitable education for all students and why social emotional learning standards are necessary in our state.

\* youth encouraged to attend

## Youth Panel: Local Wisdom through Student Voice\*

### 12:45-1:30 / Auditorium

Facilitated by Ali Moore, LCSW, Director of Student Support, Future Focused Education

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Youth leaders will share their experiences, wisdom and hopes on how to re-imagine education in New Mexico.

Panel speakers:

- Victoria Gonzalez, Cesar Chavez Community School
- Mahdi Hossaini, Highland High School
- Maeve Trager-Tarrant, Jefferson Middle School
- Ehlam Yosufzai, Tech Leadership High School
- Alanah Ambiz, Los Lunas High School
- Alexandra DeAnda, Los Lunas High School

\* youth encouraged to attend

## **Future Focused X3 - eXplore, eXperience and eXpand: The Power of Paid Internships to Transform Youth and Communities\***

### **1:40-2:55 / Room 101**

Mistie Gallegos, Director of Operations and Mike May, Director of Workforce Learning at Future Focused Education

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Youth struggling in school make choices that foreclose on their future. As obstacles to academic success increase, students turn to low-wage, low-skill jobs to support themselves, giving up activities that can lead to career opportunities. Learn how X3 Interns changes the lives of students, adults, and employers in Albuquerque. You will work with an adaptable approach for engaging stakeholders in your own community to create a path to real-world learning, student agency, and career readiness.

#### **Session Learning Outcomes:**

- Understand how changes in the economy are requiring a different set of competencies among young people transitioning to the workforce.
- Identify the characteristics of meaningful internships that support and increase success among marginalized high school students in a professional work environment.
- Review tools and experience the process of creating authentic and impactful internships.

\* youth encouraged to attend

## **Learning From You While Building at Us**

### **1:40-2:55 / Room 103**

Tim Ware, Co-founder and CEO of The Higher Learning Project

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Join Tim Ware for a presentation about his work on creating a network of schools in Memphis, TN that will serve students who have dropped out or are off-track to graduation. This network is rooted in a partnership with Future Focused Education and is meant to be adapted to the local Memphis context. This session is ideal for those who are focused on equity and schools that are rooted in the local wisdom of their own communities.

## **Authentic and Meaningful Demonstrations of College and Career Readiness: Visioning a Student Capstone Community of Practice for New Mexico**

**1:40-2:55 - Part 1 / Auditorium**

**3:05-4:20 - Part 2 / Auditorium**

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Justin Trager, Director of School Networks, Future Focused Education

Lynn Vasquez, State Assessment Director, New Mexico Public Education Department

Michael Soguero, Director of Professional Development

As New Mexico embraces Assessment for Learning and invests in the local wisdom of educators and community leaders, we have the opportunity to build out a meaningful Menu of Options to Demonstrate College and Career Readiness. Student Capstones provide an innovative, authentic, and equally rigorous pathway for students to demonstrate readiness to graduate.

Future Focused Education is partnering with NMPED to facilitate a statewide Community of Practice on Student Capstones. This highly interactive session will engage in a future protocol to develop a vision for the work, identify local assets and opportunities, and brainstorm potential action steps toward realizing the vision. We have a vision of ground-up reform complemented by national expertise to transform our public schools across New Mexico.

## **Project Based Learning and Authentic Assessment**

**1:40-2:55 / Room 112**

Jonathan Flanakin, Startup Technology Teacher at Ortiz Middle School, Santa Fe

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Learn what has been happening in Flanakin's classroom in south side Santa Fe, where his blended learning tech-entrepreneurship course asks students to identify ways to improve their world. Students create an original app using MIT App Inventor that addresses a community need, then develop a corresponding business plan and marketing materials. At the end of the year, students present in a Startup Showcase Expo for the chance to win funding and publicity.

## **Mentorship and Youth of Color**

**3:05-4:20 / Room 112**

Tatiana Falcon Rodriguez, Supervisor for Community Programs at Presbyterian Community Health

---

Mentorship creates rich work-related experiences that give students a space to grow. For young people of color, this is especially essential. Studies have shown that white professionals experience a “fast track” when it comes to executive positions as opposed to their non-white counterparts. Non-white professionals have slower career advancements and don’t have as much access to professional development opportunities. This presentation will walk through some of the inherent biases reflected in work with youth, the importance of mentorship, and strategies to support young people professionally.

## **Wellness is the Key to Student Achievement and Better Life Outcomes**

**3:05-4:20 / Room 103**

Anpao Duta Flying Earth, Executive Director at NACA

---

This presentation will focus on the NACA Wellness Philosophy which was created by a group of mothers, aunties, and relatives to center education needs within the care of the community. The wellness philosophy provides the balance necessary for a child to truly succeed as a student – and more importantly – as a human being. Learn how Native cultures children are honored, and each child is recognized for his or her special purpose. NACA has put into place multiple collaborative programs that to help ensure that all children are supported in their physical, intellectual, social/emotional, and community & relationship wellness. Personal Wellness classes are also incorporated into the school day for each student.



## Youth Voice through Policy Engagement\*

**3:05-4:20 / Room 101**

Emma Jones, Lead Organizer, New Mexico Learning Alliance

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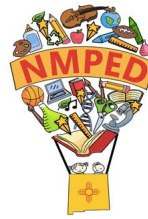
Youth will participate in interactive and leadership activities to build upon what they have learned, share their ideas and develop strategies for next steps to create policy changes in New Mexico's education system.

\* youth encouraged to attend

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