

Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation: Executive Summary, March 2021

Celebrating our 24th year, the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Foundation is a 501(c)(3) with the mission to inspire **excellence in education and learning** in Northern New Mexico through **innovative programming, collaboration and advocacy**. Our vision is that all New Mexicans have the skills and confidence they need to be self-sufficient lifelong learners who are engaged in their communities. We work primarily in a seven-county area of Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe and Taos.

Education is a continuum from birth to college/career. The Foundation focuses on three areas:

Birth to Three: LANL Foundation helped bring the First Born® home-visiting program to 16 New Mexico counties. Free parenting advice, educational curriculum and assessments are offered to first-time mothers, fathers and families. This program begins when a mother is pregnant and continues until the child is three years old.

LANL Foundation is now working to build infrastructure and quality improvement in First Born and other home visiting programs throughout the state. We have developed a statewide collaborative to collectively support several programs that offer quality home visiting and work with statewide philanthropic funders on advocacy. We have convened stakeholders to form the Rio Arriba County Early Childhood Collaborative.

A multi-year Kellogg grant supports current work with the Eight Northern Pueblos to do community mapping of each Pueblo's home visiting and early childhood supports. After working on a full assessment and strategic plan for each Pueblo, we are now working to address any service gaps and are offering early childhood education classes, reflective supervision training and grant writing opportunities to help build capacity in each pueblo.

Elementary through High School Education: The Inquiry Science Education Consortium (ISEC) is a LANL Foundation initiative that uses *experiential* methods to teach science. We provide curriculum, materials and teacher professional development to spark in kids a love of investigation and experimentation that carries over into core subjects like ELA and math. After ten years of implementation, an outside study by Edvance Research shows that students in the program have made "statistically significant" improvements in grades 4–6 in every subject measured by the NM Standards-Based Assessment: math, science, reading and writing. Especially significant were improvements for children traditionally in the "achievement gap." Currently, this program serves over 12,000 students and 600 teachers at 44 schools in 8 Northern New Mexico districts, as well as 2 pueblos.

Our K-12 Programs focus in four areas: 1) Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) education; 2) building and growing the leadership and professional capacity of educators and education leaders; 3) promoting the social, emotional and mental wellbeing of our students and 4) advocating for students and great schools in Northern New Mexico. We also have created, in partnership with Centerra-Los Alamos, a NNM Excellence in Teaching Award that gives seven \$1000 awards to outstanding teachers each year. In addition, we give out over \$1,000,000 in education and community grants each year. We also perform research and publish Policy Briefs on important education topics. This year, on teacher vacancies and career and college supports in our high schools.

Higher Education and Workforce Development: The Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund is the largest scholarship pool in Northern NM. Scholarships are funded through the generosity of LANL employees, retirees, Triad, LLC and community members. Awards are based on academic performance, leadership, financial need, critical thinking and career goals, as well as life experiences. Many winners are the first in their families to attend college. So far, we have awarded over \$6.8 million in scholarships to more than 1,400 students. Our award payout has increased every year, as has donor support. In recent years, dozens of students have worked as summer interns at the Lab to gain meaningful experience under the guidance of a mentor. Some are now on staff at LANL and are beginning to assume leadership roles. In 2021, so far 106 students have received \$753,000 in scholarships. More scholarships will be awarded later in the year.

Our newest line of work is in Career Pathways, where we are working to build high school supports and career and college pathways for students in Northern New Mexico.

See www.lanlfoundation.org for more information about our work.