

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 the vicinity of the LANL, 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, and the Foundation is currently focused on three areas:

Birth to Three: LANL Foundation helped bring the First Born® home visiting program to 18 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 partnered with the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department and its data team to align data points and ensure consistent reporting of outcomes. Annual Home Visiting Summits started in 2018.

Work with the Eight Northern Pueblos to do community mapping of each Pueblo's home visiting and early childhood supports has been created. Several grants support work on a full assessment and strategic plan for each Pueblo to address any service gaps and are offering early childhood education classes in each Pueblo.

Elementary to 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 science investigation and experimentation. After six years of implementation, an outside study by Edvance Research showed 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 11,000 students and 570 teachers at 42 schools in eight Northern New Mexico districts and two pueblo schools.

Pursuant to our Strategic Plan, we have created a K–12 Program office focused in three areas: 1) Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education; 2) building and growing the leadership and professional capacity of educators; and 3) advocating for excellent schools and students in Northern New Mexico. We are advocating for excellent implementation and funding for the NM STEM Ready! standards. We also have created, in partnership with Centerra-Los Alamos, a Rio Arriba Excellence in Teaching Award that gives seven \$1000 awards to outstanding teachers each year. This will be the award's sixth year. In addition, we will give out over \$1 million in education and community grants this year.

Higher Education and Workforce Development: The Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund is the largest scholarship pool in Northern New Mexico. Scholarships are funded through the generosity of LANL employees, retirees, LANS LLC and community members. Awards are based on academic performance, leadership, 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 \$8.5 million in scholarships to more than 1,800 students. In 2020, the Foundation decided to increase its focus on enhancing students' access to academic and technical opportunities leading to quality jobs by supporting the growth of college and career readiness in schools, districts, communities and Pueblos, Tribes and Nations.

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