



Aggie Next Step College Experience

2023

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4-H and Youth Development

SITUATION

In 2017, a joint policy resolution of the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, Dept. of Labor, Workforce Development, and the Governor's Higher Education Council set a goal of 66 percent of New Mexico's workforce population having a postsecondary degree, certificate, or training beyond high school by the year 2030.

The national average of post-secondary educational attainment stands at 51.9 percent. Forty-five percent of New Mexico's workforce population has attained post-secondary credentials.

Increasing awareness of postsecondary degree, certificate, training, and career options can serve to develop a more skilled and educated workforce.

Findings show field-trip-based interventions can meaningfully affect student college decisions and preparation and suggests opportunities to shadow college students during a campus visit can increase persistence in higher education (Swanson et al, 2021).

NMSU EXTENSION RESPONSE

Discovering and developing a path after high school can be challenging. Many students do not get the opportunity to explore and experience higher education options. Aggie Next Step College Experience (ANS-CE) encourages youth to create a path for life after high school. ANS-CE invites youth to campus starting in eighth grade and introduces them to faculty members, college students, and student life at a university. ANS-CE provided four campus visits in 2023. Twenty-four departments from five NMSU colleges, two DACC campuses and Burrell College of Osteopathy participated. Faculty, staff and students provided 44 experiential learning activities for 261 students from Chaves, Grant, Rio Arriba, Sierra, and Valencia counties.

IMPACT

Pre-Survey of participants:

38% have not been on a university campus

35% have visited NMSU

13% answered "very likely" to attend NMSU

Post-Survey of 8th grade participants:

71% answered "more likely" to attend NMSU

78% answered they feel better prepared to pursue their career and education goals

"It changed my view of college. I want to go to college even more now."

"I really enjoyed touring the campus, it gave me more of an idea of what college life is like."

"I think that NMSU really changed my career choices because I learned a lot more about all the other careers there was to choose from."

"It was so amazing watching them (youth) explore this new world. They definitely left with so much information and hope for their future. We always tell students there are so many opportunities, but we rarely get to take them to these opportunities and allow them to explore new ideas." *Jamie N., University HS*

DEMOGRAPHICS

Female: 56% Male: 42% • Hispanic: 38% Native American: 22% White: 36% Black: 2% Asian: 2%



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