Reach To Teach Website Launched

Reach To Teach finally has a website where all information regarding the NMSU teaching program, forms, links, teaching information, and current events can be found. The Website is a new way to help student connect and be part of the organization through the internet. In the past, flyers and email were the only means for students to connect. With distance education becoming a daily way of life, the website seemed the most logical step to get information to students, faculty and inservice teachers. To find out more information about Reach to Teach, visit our website at: http://web.nmsu.edu/~katioco/

Reach To Teach Members gathered in 2007 for a day of “Math Blaster” A day dedicated to teaching the joy of mathematics to 200 sixth graders in the Grants area. The group consists of NMSU students working alongside NMSU faculty. From left to right bottom to top: Felicia Casados, Michelle Spencer, Robert Baker, Roni Polk, Kathy McHendricks, Charlotte Otts, Debbie Hicks, Bonni Vigil, Susan Rhoderick, Sandi Rourke, Michelle LeFaye, Kandas Atwater, Marien Chavez-Toivanen, June Mathews, Katie Ann, Janice, Jennifer Gaillitney, Diana Sanders, Lucinda Albus, Renaye Apachito, Betty Ibarra, Kate Carter, Monica Guillen, David Archibeck, and Pete Lopez. Many others assistants not in the photo. Photo taken by Sandee Kosmo.

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Experience and Education
Meet Service Learning

The Rewards of Teaching
By Renaye Apachito

The Teaching Education Program at New Mexico State University was challenging from start to finish. The program was great in helping me to understand the teacher’s responsibility in assisting children to realize the value of education and to understand how education is a necessity in life. The Methods Practicum allowed me to see first hand the collaboration between technology, teacher, and student. I can see how this collaboration will increase student self-motivation. The teacher has the ability to link all the tools to spark the imagination and encourage students to learn. As a teacher, I have the ability to process difficult concepts and present them in a manner which can be understood by all students. I believe that this is the most rewarding part of teaching. I love being a teacher! Renaye Apachito is currently a Kindergarten Teacher at Pine Hill NMSU graduate Spring 2007.

Why Join Reach to Teach?
By Linda Marion

Although joining and being involved in an organization looks great on a resume, why else should you devote time to the Reach to Teach club here at NMSU-Grants? The officers and sponsors of Reach to Teach are committed to getting its members resources, networking opportunities, professional development, and so much more! Its not about logging in hours at a bake sale, but getting what you need to grow and expand in your teaching development and career! Research indicates that teachers who participate in teacher network groups (like Reach to Teach!) are much more able to successfully collaborate, experience decreased stress, and have more longevity in their career as a teacher! Come to our next meeting, read our website, and get involved in a professional local organization right here at NMSU-Grants: Reach to Teach!

Service Learning

This past fall NMSU-Grants piloted a service learning project funded by a grant received from CNM. Professor Marion’s Introduction to Literacy class students were given the opportunity to participate in a service learning project in lieu of completing some major assignments for the class requirements. What is service learning and how is it related to the teaching field? Service learning is really a bridge that connects learning objectives in the classroom (think standards and benchmarks) to real-life application of those objectives while at the same time helping out a non-profit organization in the community! Service learning goes way beyond volunteer work by giving students an opportunity to practice and strengthen the curriculum they are learning. The Education Department now has community partnerships with several Cibola County elementary schools where education students can participate in service learning. This semester Instructor Bob Baker has also offered service learning as a class objective for his math students. Service learning is a great way to get hands-on experience while benefiting our community, so please consider service learning in your next class!

Reader's Theatre
By Michelle LeFaye

A comprehensive reading program will be initiated through Future Foundation. The program will focus on oral reading-language skills for 5th - 8th grades. The goal of the program is to augment reading skills, inspire interest in oral reading as a form of entertainment, communication, and art. Above all, it is hoped that the program will help maintain interest and excitement in reading.

The students will be exposed to dramatic reading skills through reading poetry, short stories, monologues, and book excerpts. They will learn how rhythm and music are related to all languages. Students will learn to use visualization skills in connection with auditory skills which will lead to creative writing experiences for the students. This project will be ongoing and hopefully expand to perhaps radio performances on the local radio, TV as well as live performances and competitions.

Students who speak a language other than English are welcome to share their cultural stories and perform readings in their native language, if they so choose. Translations will be encouraged when possible. Students and individuals who know the American Sign Language are encouraged to participate. All students will perform by reading an oral presentation to the public.

If you are a teacher, future teachers or a students who needs volunteer time on letters of reference and portfolios, this program provides you with the opportunity. Anyone who is interested may contact Michelle Lafaye at (505) 285-6855 or whitekro@msn.com

ASK HELENA!
Do you have questions about the Teaching Education Program at NMSU?
Email Helena any question you might have and we will profile it in the upcoming R2T newsletter.
Helena can be reached at helmerchant@msn.com