The College of Education begins the new school year by welcoming students to a new home. Come inside and explore some of the innovative and unique ways in which our alumni, faculty and students are building success in education one student at a time.

The new COE building is certified LEED Platinum, making it the first publicly funded project and only the second non-residential structure, to earn this recognition in New Mexico.

Low water flow plumbing fixtures with occupancy sensors in the new COE building reduce water usage up to 30 percent.

The new COE building has four “simulated” classrooms so students can practice teaching in real world learning environments.

Solar panels in the new COE building provide almost 8 percent of the building’s power.
UNM ALUMNA HELPS BRING BILINGUAL EDUCATION TO THE CLASSROOM

When Edna Alvarado enrolled her Spanish-speaking son in school she could not find a bilingual program. She used her five-year teaching experience to give him extra bilingual education at home after school.

Since then she has earned her master’s degree from UNM College of Education in bilingual and elementary education and has taught kindergarten for the past 16 years at La Mesa Elementary School in Albuquerque’s inner city. It is no wonder that in 2001 she earned recognition as a Golden Apple fellow for academic excellence in bilingual education and parental involvement.

“I started doing research in the schools and I noticed that most of the bilingual kids were underperforming,” Alvarado said. “I had the dream of starting a bilingual program and helping the students.”

Alvarado’s kindergarten class is decorated with posters in English and Spanish and her students switch between the languages as easily as they switch verb tenses. Most importantly, since implementing the bilingual program significantly fewer bilingual...

(continued on page 4)
NEW DOCTORAL PROGRAM ELEVATES MATHEMATICS IN RURAL NEW MEXICO


Students in rural areas face unique challenges when it comes to education.

That is why the College of Education is teaming up with Los Alamos National Laboratories and the Española Public School District to create the Rural Mathematics Doctoral Program, a new cohort that is being initiated to develop school leaders in rural northern New Mexico communities.

"Children in rural areas don’t traditionally have the same educational opportunities as their counterparts in urban areas," said Ellen Perez, a doctoral candidate in the program. “Some of the best jobs are available in northern New Mexico at Los Alamos National Laboratories, but we aren’t teaching students the skills they need in order to succeed at the university level so that they can compete for these jobs.”

Eight administrators, teachers and community leaders were chosen from the Española area for the pilot program, which provides specialized training in leadership in mathematics education. They then take the knowledge directly back to the community for implementation.

Lisa Tsuchiya said she applied for the program to help make a difference in her community.

“I want to help contribute to the education of new teachers in our district and give students the best chance at success,” she said. “Through the Rural Mathematics Doctoral Program, I hope to learn the skills and ways in which to have an impact in the lives of our students.”

The Rural Mathematics Doctoral Program is community-based, with the Española Public School District and Los Alamos National Laboratories providing scholarships to make the program affordable.

In addition, Professor Rick Kitchen said the Española community played a major role in the foundation of the program.

“When we first met to talk about creating the program and establishing a curriculum, there were about 35 people sitting in,” he said. “I think this speaks to the dedication of the community. It is our goal to not only improve the teaching and learning of mathematics in the district, but also to help transform leadership in the school district by working together.”

The College of Education awarded Felicia Johnson the 2010-2011 Carl P. and Erma W. Dunifon Scholarship. Johnson grew up living on the Navajo Nation at Shiprock, N.M. and Houck, Ariz. With her degree, she hopes to provide mental health care services in the American Indian communities. Having grown up in the Navajo community, Johnson understands the need for counselors in minority communities. Her goal for the future is to help build programs that address the social issues in those areas.

ALUMNA RETURNS TO UNM AS PROFESSOR

Former UNM student Kersti Tyson began her first semester as a professor in the education department this fall. Tyson’s specialty is in math education, which is critical to New Mexico schools. Having just finished her doctorate at the University of Washington, Tyson is back to work at what she said “is probably the best institution in New Mexico to work in, in education.” Working as a faculty member at UNM combines her desire to educate other teachers and also to do more research on learning.
students are being recommended for special education and the school has had to hire a gifted teacher to meet the increased demand by over-performing students.

Passing on her research and experience to the next generation of school teachers, Alvarado also teaches bilingual methodology and materials at UNM. Bilingual education has been shown to be effective by allowing students to access academic concepts in their native language and learn English at the same time, according to Alvarado and her colleague Holbrook Mahn, a professor at the College of Education.

“Studies have shown that students who are enrolled in bilingual programs throughout their elementary schooling outperform native English speakers on tests given in English,” Mahn said. “Native English speakers can learn Spanish at a young age, making them more aware of English, which helps across the curriculum.”

If you would like to make a donation to the College of Education, please use the enclosed envelope or:

• Send your check, made payable to The UNM Foundation (please write College of Education in the memo) to:
  The UNM Foundation Two Woodward Center
  700 Lomas Blvd., NE
  Albuquerque, NM 87102-2520
• Make a secure donation online with your credit card at www.unmfund.org.
• Donate through your employer’s payroll deduction plan or matching gift program. Please check with your human resources department for details.

For more information on giving, please contact:
Christie Ross
Director of Development, College of Education
(505) 277-2915
cross@unmfund.org

Thank you for supporting the UNM College of Education.