

VADO meeting

RONALD HAUGEN

From: JOSE HINOJOSA
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2006 10:31 AM
To: EUGENE SUTMILLER VADO Principal; NEVA BEKKEN
Cc: RONALD HAUGEN; CYNTHIA NAVA; CHRISTINE CANTRELL; IRMA SUAREZ; MARILYN WATSON; PHILLIP MEDINA
Subject: Scotts State Flower Drawing Contest Winner from New Mexico

Good morning,

Our department would like to acknowledge Juan Carlos Valdez and Adam Martinez of Vado Elementary for winning prizes in the 2005 Scotts "Draw Your State Flower" Contest.

Juan Carlos Valdez's work will represent the state of New Mexico at the 2006 Scotts Convention in Washington, DC. He will receive \$250 and an invitation to attend the ceremonies in Washington.

The Department is searching for information as to Adam Martinez's award and if the costs for the trip to Washington are included in the prize.

We would also like to acknowledge Ms. Bekken for her instruction and support of these students. Below is the work that will be recognized.



Juan Carlos Valdez
5th grade Vado Elementary
Scotts State Flower Contest, New Mexico
1st Place

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1/17/2006

educational leaders who will make a difference



work with students.

SA) project gives American Indian teachers the opportunity to receive master's degrees in educational administration to meet the needs of American Indian students. Program administrators want to double the number of American Indian administrators in New Mexico.

González said that by drawing on these programs CeBIEL can not only prepare leaders but must begin the collaborative effort to ensure continuing support for New Mexico principals.

González said the center's development became even more focused when the state approached her department and requested the establishment of a Leadership Academy to con-

nity speaker series and developed continuing professional development training modules.

Future CeBIEL goals include developing a statewide principals' evaluation system, supporting administrative interns in districts across the state, supporting principals serving indigenous populations and im-

Gadsden Math Initiative

BY JULIE M. HUGHES

NMSU's College of Education is creating the model for closing mathematics achievement gaps among Hispanic students, said Karin Wiburg, associate dean for research.

The Gadsden Math Initiative (GMI)—a partnership between the university and the Gadsden Independent School District—is implementing methods for teaching math to elementary and middle school students that are raising test scores.

Recently released data shows fourth-grade students in the district scoring at or above the average for all fourth-grade students in mathematics in the state.

"The outcomes study so far confirms that these initiatives have had powerful positive effects on learning when they are implemented districtwide," Wiburg said, adding that Gadsden schools are the perfect place for this study because their population reflects the changing demographics of the nation.

The student body in the Gadsden district is 95 percent Hispanic and an estimated 57 percent of the students come from homes where the primary language spoken is not English. The U.S. Census Bureau reported a 73 percent growth rate for Hispanics from 1990-2002, a period in which the U.S. population grew only 16 percent.

"Because of this growth, teachers everywhere in this country will soon be faced with culturally and linguistically diverse students they have not been prepared to teach," Wiburg says. "We need models of professional development that work to decrease the achievement gap for Hispanic students."

The GMI focuses on helping students understand and build math concepts rather than memorizing techniques. GMI and the outcomes study are being funded by a National Science Foundation grant that continues until June 2006.

leadership.

"This state is facing a real challenge in the next five years because a large number of principals are reaching retirement," González said.

Milyard said, "We want those positions filled with principals trained to meet the unique needs of the state."

From Sun News Sunday 1/29/06 (NMSU Research on the Cutting edge - insert)

CLASSIFICATION	STAFF IN DISTRICT	STAFF LEFT THE DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE	73	9
CERTIFIED	1216	95
CLASSIFIED	763	48
TOTAL:	2052	152

$$2052 \div 152 = .07\%$$

GADSDEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
EMPLOYEE TURNOVER
2003/2004 SY
1/30/06

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	EMPLOYEES LEFT DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE	75	3
CERTIFIED	1067	43
CLASSIFIED	743	26
TOTAL	1885	72

$$72 \div 1885 = .03\%$$

2003-2004

1885 total employees	72 left the district	turnover rate 3.8%
75 administrative	3 left the district	turnover rate 4%
1067 certified	43 left the district	turnover rate 4%
743 classified	26 left the district	turnover rate 3.4%

2004-2005

2052 total employees	152 left the district	turnover rate 7.4%
73 administrative	9 left the district	turnover rate 12%
1216 certified	95 left the district	turnover rate 7.8%
763 classified	48 left the district	turnover rate 6%

"By the fact that I chair the Wellness Council, you can determine that we've identified wellness as a key issue."

—Deborah Hecker,
Sodexo USA



"You've got to add foods that kids will like. You can't have a menu that's been around since Adam and Eve."

—Demetrius Giovas,
Gadsden Independent School District

While marketing may be the last thing on the mind of someone at the helm of a school nutrition program, for Demetrius Giovas it is the natural focus.

"If we want kids to participate in the program, we have to create a look that makes them feel as though they are eating in a restaurant," he says.

This approach has paid off for Giovas, student nutrition program director for Gadsden Independent School District, whose program boasts 94% participation. With logo, color scheme and dress code separate from the schools, Gadsden's program speaks to the students' needs to feel "like you're giving them a choice not dictated by the school," he explains.

Nevertheless, selling the program to 14,000 students split among 22 schools in this rural farming community while maintaining dietary regulations is Giovas' biggest challenge. The secret, he says, is understanding his audience.

"For upper grades we set up the cafeterias to resemble a mall

WHO: Demetrius Giovas

WHAT: Student nutrition program director

WHERE: Gadsden Independent School District, Sunland Park, N.M.

WHY: Takes a commercial approach to noncommercial foodservice by constantly testing new products and introducing concepts. Boasts a high participation rate.

food court," he explains. "Every station features a different kind of cuisine and items they're familiar with."

Taking a cue from such concepts as McDonald's, Giovas has introduced salad shakers to his menu in order to entice students to make healthier choices. At the same time, he knows that popular foods such as breakfast burritos will encourage student participation in the program. Innovation, he says, is key.

In 2005, Giovas introduced The Bistro, a concept that serves as a test kitchen for the entire district. Taking inspiration from menu items found in commercial and noncommercial markets, Giovas and his staff modify dishes

to meet the school's nutrition standards and regularly introduce new items to the menu rotation.

"You've got to add foods that kids will like. You can't have a menu that's been around since Adam and Eve," he says. "I'm a big believer that you just don't get a product and throw it in front of the kids."

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