

Congratulations, 2019 Graduates!

As spring wakens the land – days lengthen, blossoms grace trees and the acequias run – the call to celebrate certain rites of passage reverberates within our community. Soon, hundreds of high school seniors will graduate and make their next moves into adulthood. Many students have recently earned their High School Equivalencies, and are transitioning into their next adventure. We note the University of New Mexico-Taos students who have just completed a certification or an associate degree as a step on a longer journey leading into the workforce or in pursuit of a bachelor's degree. In addition, many of our former clients are graduating from colleges and universities across the country. The staff and board of directors at Bridges Project for Education would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to these graduates and our deep appreciation for those who supported them along the way. Parents, guardians, grandparents, families and allies – you helped guide, nourish and nurture these students. Teachers, staff, guidance counselors, advocates and administrators – you helped your many students learn, grow and thrive – and shepherded another class over this threshold. Your collec-

LEARNING CURVE



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tive efforts have helped them succeed on their path.

Bridges is grateful to have accompanied many of these students throughout the complex process of applying to schools and for financial aid and scholarships, and to provide emotional as well as logistical support. We applaud your efforts, your willingness to persevere through this process and your diverse trajectories. We hope that your choices and actions will lead you to achieving your dreams and goals.

Next steps

Students who've already applied to colleges and universities will have hopefully received a letter of acceptance and associated financial aid offer. Bridges can help students decipher and compare all packages. Some students have

already made their decision – for them it's time to pay an admissions deposit and complete mandatory paperwork.

Most four-year schools mandate that first-year students live on campus, since research asserts that when students reside on campus they tend to get involved in the school's community, are aware of and able to access supports and generally see improvements in their learning and grades. Those who will live on campus need to choose their accommodation type, their roommates and meal plan. All students can look ahead to the fall and plan for their new student orientation and other school requirements. Bridges can help with any of this.

Summer postsecondary counseling

Bridges' counselors will be available throughout the summer. We can assist those high school seniors, high school equivalency recipients and nontraditional age students who still need support in researching and applying to colleges, completing the FAFSA and scholarship applications for the 2019-2020 academic year. Some colleges, particularly those with open admissions, are still accepting applications. The FAFSA closes on June 30,

so you have a few months left to apply for 2019-2020 financial aid for some schools. Scholarships have variable deadlines.

We invite rising seniors and younger high school students who want to plan ahead or get started working through their process to make an appointment with us. We also support current college students, whether or not they've previously met with us. We can help enrolled students overcome some of the challenges that postsecondary programs can present and stay the course to completion.

Bridges provides free, comprehensive and individualized admissions and financial aid counseling for students of all ages. Come talk to us if you're considering attending a technical or vocational program, aiming toward a two- or four-year degree, or if you're already enrolled in a postsecondary program and need some assistance. Call (575) 758-5074 or email us info@bridgesproject.org to schedule an appointment.

Mackenzi Frederick is a college counselor and development coordinator at Bridges Project for Education. Bridges has offered free, individualized postsecondary counseling services since 1997.

What's up at your local library?

The Taos Public Library has a ton of events coming up over the summer for families to enjoy together.

The Taos Children's Library presents A Universe of Stories Summer Reading Program from June 6 to July 25. Registration and book giveaway will be from 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. June 6. Fun activities with Twirl start at 10:30 a.m.

The Summer Reading Program is open to ages 2-5 years old and children entering first through sixth grades. The Teen Summer Reading Program includes grades sixth-12th. Sixth-graders have the option to join the teen program, or stay in the children's program.

For the Grand Prizes, ages 2-5 completing the program will be entered in a drawing to win one of two Contixo kid's tablets with 8GB, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, 20-plus free games, parent control and a kid-proof case. Grades one to six completing the program will be entered to win one of two tablets with a keyboard, folio case and headphones, in addition to other prizes.

Students in grades 6-12 also will be entered to win an Amazon Fire Tablet (equipped with Alexa, Wi-Fi, and thousands of apps), a Fuji Film Polaroid Camera, or two tickets to Taos Ski Valley's summer chairlift ride. Weekly prizes include passes to Ziggy's Frozen Yogurt, Gutters Bowling Alley and

Meow Wolf.

All Summer Reading Program activities will be held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. with the following schedule:

- June 13 – Crafts
 - June 20 – YoYo & Magic Show with Luke Renner from Farmington
 - June 27 – Explora: a family and community science
 - July 11 – Jamie O'Hara's Magic Show
 - July 18 – Crafts
 - Teen programs will take place on Wednesdays at 3 p.m.
 - June 12 – Cookie Decorating
 - June 19 – Viral Video Star Part One
 - June 26 – Viral Video Star Part Two
 - July 10 – Scavenger Hunt and Prizes
 - July 17 – Balloon Painting
 - July 25 – Final summer reading event with a book giveaway from 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., ice cream party 1 - 2 p.m., and awards ceremony will begin at 3 p.m.. You must be present for the drawings in order to win. Wonder on Wheels Mobile Museum will also be at the Taos Library from 1- 4 p.m.
- The Taos Public Library is located at 402 Camino de la Placita. Call Annette Montoya, children's library supervisor, at (575) 737-2589 or email her at amontoya@taosgov.com
- Report submitted by the town of Taos

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SAVE THE DATE:
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 8 | 9AM

@TAOS HIGH SCHOOL GYM

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00AM. MEETING BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 9:00AM. PLEASE BE PREPARED TO STAY FOR BUSINESS MEETING AND ACT ON 3 PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS.

If you want your voice heard, please attend!
 Luncheon sponsored by Kit Carson Internet & Kit Carson Energy, Inc. following the meeting.

PRIZES & FOOD!



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