



**Abriendo Puertas
Opening Doors**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Internship Program Supporting Young New Mexico Parents Graduates First Cohort

Cross-sector partnership develops young parent leaders within New Mexico communities that need it most

JUNE 24, 2022 ALBUQUERQUE, NM — The New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) [Home Visiting](#) Division, in collaboration with local nonprofit Future Focused Education and parent advocacy program Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors, graduated its first cohort of young parents from its X3 Home Visiting Internship program. The innovative, 10-week paid internship program provides training to 15 young parents, all of whom have children from 0-5 years old. The group engaged in weekly professional development from mentors in ECECD's Home Visiting program and successfully completed the training to become certified Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors facilitators.

"This administration is committed to making its early childhood education and care system family-focused and responsive to the real needs of parents with young children," said ECECD Cabinet Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky. "This innovative new program is a fantastic way to build young parents' skills, develop powerful peer leaders in the community, and create engagement with the families who are most impacted by our policies."

The X3 internship program, developed by Future Focused Education, provides peer support and professional mentorship, while also helping build social capital, financial stability, and professional networks. Professionals from ECECD's Home Visiting program, a free service that helps equip families with the skills and support they need to build stable and nurturing homes for their children,

mentored the cohort and provided training on the free support programs available for parents. All cohort members are also graduating with a facilitator certification through the Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors program, qualifying them to become parent-teachers and leaders within their communities.

“This two-generation approach has compounding positive effects,” said Adrián A. Pedroza, National Executive Director of Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors. “When parents are more involved in their communities and schools, their children perform better and are more likely to pursue higher education—which improves socio-economic status and the economy at large.”

Press are welcome to attend the internship’s first cohort graduation Friday, June 24, 2022 from 1-3pm at Explora. Contact ali@futurefocusededucation.org to attend.

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Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham launched the **New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD)** in 2020, making New Mexico among the first states to consolidate all early childhood programs and services under a single cabinet-level agency. Under this administration, ECECD has led the nation by expanding access to free New Mexico PreK, overseeing the largest investment in early childhood infrastructure in state history, and implementing cost-free child care for a majority of New Mexico families. Learn more about how ECECD supports children, families, and the early childhood professionals that serve our communities at nmececd.org. On Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as @NewMexicoECECD.

Future Focused Education is the leading expert in innovative school models and work-based learning in New Mexico. Their evidence-based approaches to project-based learning, paid high school and college internships, and community-centered programs have proven success at increasing equity and opportunities for the students that need it most. Learn more at futurefocusededucation.org. To learn more about the X3 Internship Program, please visit Future Focused Education's website: <https://futurefocusededucation.org/x3-internship/> or contact Ali Moore, Director of Student Support at ali@futurefocusededucation.org.

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors supports and honors parents in building strong foundations for their children in reading, math, technology, health and more. Parents support each other in making what they learn a part of daily life, understanding they are in powerful positions as leaders and advocates for their families. Find more information at ap-od.org.