For Immediate Release  
February 26, 2014

Unidos Project Community Forum and Resource Fair

Saturday, March 1, 2014, 10am – 2pm

West Mesa High School, 6701 Fortuna Rd., NW 87121

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – The Unidos Project, one of thirteen projects in eleven states nationwide selected as a recipient of the Lumina Latino Student Success Grant, will host the Unidos Project Community Forum and Resource Fair on Saturday, March 1, 2014 from 10:00am-2:00pm at West Mesa High School, located at 6701 Fortuna Rd NW.

“It is great to find a resource fair that provides information for myself and my children,” said parent Susy Saramiento. “It is so helpful to have access to information for health and school needs in one place that is family friendly.”

The event will be interactive as well as informational and is open to the entire community. Childcare will be provided.

Workshops will be held on a wide range of topics including early childhood, high school and college education, financial literacy, immigration, health and career development.

The goals for the Community Education Forum and Resource Fair are:

- To provide a direct and tangible benefit, information and resources to community participants with support of local businesses, community and service organizations, schools and institutional agencies.
- To meet the needs of our community by bringing together organizations that are willing to work collaboratively on these efforts.

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http://unidos.unm.edu and http://www.edexcelencia.org/LuminaLSS/Albuquerque
Twitter: https://twitter.com/Unidos4Success
“We would love for families and students to see WMHS as the heart of the community and that we are doing everything to make our students successful,” said Ben Santistevan, Principal, West Mesa High School. “Health and social issues play a major role in the success of educational pursuits and we want to ensure that our students are given every opportunity to be successful.”

Exhibitors and Presenters at the Unidos Project Community Forum and Resource Fair include:

- Aging and Long Term Services
- Catholic Charities
- CNM
- ENLACE NM
- The Education Plan
- Innovate Educate
- La Plazita Institute, Inc.
- Media Arts Collaborative Charter School
- Medicaid Centennial & Health Insurance Navigators
- NM Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice
- NM Department of Workforce Solutions
- NM Immigrant Law Center
- NM Primary Care Association
- Partnership for Community Action
- Rape Crisis Center of Central NM
- St. Mark’s Day School
- SWEPT
- UNM
- UNM EOC
- YDI
- And Many More!!

“We are thrilled to host this exciting fair to benefit the Albuquerque community,” explained Dr. Jozi De Leon, VP for Equity and Inclusion, UNM and Principal Investigator for the Unidos Grant. “The Resource Fair is just one way the Unidos Project is working with our partners to meet our goal of increasing high school graduation rates.”

The Community Forum and Resource Fair is made possible through a partnership with the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund and FAFSA Free for All.

About the Unidos Project:
The Unidos Project is built around a “no wrong gate” approach that allows students to flow freely through our educational system, with appropriate support and direction to remain on course, and with minimal barriers to impede their movement. By creating a culture of collaboration across numerous entities, the overall goal of the Unidos Project is to produce 55,000 post-secondary degrees and credentials for Latinos in Bernalillo County by the year 2025, by increasing Latino high school graduation rates, enrolling more Latinos in postsecondary education, and graduating more Latinos from our institutions of higher education.

The Unidos partners include representatives from six key sectors: Albuquerque Public Schools (K-12 education), the University of New Mexico (higher education), Central New Mexico Community College (higher education), the Center for Education Policy Research (higher education), El Centro de la Raza (higher education), the College Board (higher education), Youth Development, Inc. (community-based organization), the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce (employers), ENLACE (community-based and Latino-serving organizations), Innovate+Educate (employers), the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Community Schools Partnership (policy leadership), Partnership for Community Action, Catholic Charities, Encuentro, ABQ GED, Families United for Education and State Representative and NM House Majority Leader/ House Education Committee Chairman Rick Miera (policy leadership).

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