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NMDVR, partners offer students with disabilities virtual high school-to-work transition fairs

Students are invited to start planning their next steps after high school

SANTA FE – In an effort to ensure New Mexico’s high school juniors with disabilities continue to receive ongoing support as they consider various career paths, the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR) and partner agencies will be holding virtual high school-to-work transition fairs throughout the spring.

Students and their parents are invited to drop in and visit online exhibitor “booths” to learn about career transition programs and services for students with disabilities.

“Connecting with New Mexico’s high school students with disabilities and their families throughout the pandemic is extremely important to NMDVR and our partners,” said Charlene Chavez, transition counselor with NMDVR. “Since the pandemic began last year, we have all been striving to develop creative ways to reach students and let them know we are actively providing counseling and other resources throughout the state.”

Alex Rios, education specialist with Partners for Employment at the UNM Center for Development and Disability, said: “Virtual transition fairs serve as a continuous web-based resource for students and parents to access at any point in the future. All live presentations are recorded and placed on the webpage for future viewing. We encourage everyone to explore and share the various transition fair webpages throughout their transition experience.”

“As a vocational rehabilitation counselor with NMDVR and as a professional who works with transition students in several high schools, these virtual transition fairs are excellent ways for students and their families to learn about employment and post-secondary education and trade school options once the student graduates from high school,” added Linda Fisher, NMDVR vocational rehabilitation counselor based in Las Cruces.

Students across the state can attend any transition fair regardless of their home or school location. Online fairs will be offered in both English and Spanish.

Please visit this link for information about fairs currently scheduled in Otero, Luna and Grant counties and Las Cruces:
<https://www.dvr.state.nm.us/transition-for-students/>.

DVR recognizes the extraordinary circumstances we are facing related to the growing concern about COVID-19. DVR is deeply concerned for the health and well-being of the public, vocational rehabilitation staff, and adults and children with disabilities in New Mexico. Anyone needing to contact the New Mexico Department of Health COVID-19 hotline should call 1-855-600-3453.

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