

Project SEARCH in New Mexico Receives National Recognition



Charlene Chavez (in green print blouse) with Project SEARCH co-founders Susie Rutkowski (far left) and Erin Riehle (far right), and representatives of Gallup-McKinley County Schools and Albuquerque Public Schools at the Project SEARCH National Conference on July 26, 2022.

Two project search sites in the state—The Hilton Gallup Inn/Gallup-McKinley County School District and Embassy suites/Albuquerque Public Schools—were honored by the National Project Search for achieving 100% work placement for their interns during the 2020-'21 school year. They were presented their awards during the organizations national conference in Baltimore, Maryland on July 26, 2022.

Every intern was placed in an integrated setting, earning minimum wage or higher. Transition Coordinator **Charlene Chavez** says, “This accomplishment is special, as this was during high periods of COVID on the Navajo Nation, and in the Albuquerque metro.” Chavez adds that both sites were on target to once again attain perfect placement for the 2021-'22 school year.