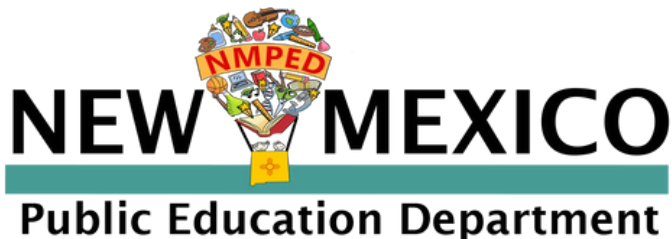


# Thank You!

Your Community  
Rewards® *In Action*



## WELCOME TO THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

### WHAT IS THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (OST-LI)?

- A professional development training program designed to build upon and expand skills while strengthening the statewide out-of-school time (OST) network.

### THE OST-LI MISSION:

- The OST Leadership Institute's mission is to increase access to OST programs across New Mexico by providing high quality professional development for emerging out-of-school time leaders working in underserved and vulnerable New Mexico communities.

### TRAINING TOPICS

System Building • Partnership Building • Fundraising • Positive Youth Development • Program Planning • Program Assessment & Evaluation • Cultural Relevance • Social & Emotional Learning • Leadership

### OST-LI OUTCOMES

- Form a statewide group of changemakers dedicated to taking OST to the next level in New Mexico.
- Provide networking opportunities with other programs and community leaders to share best practices and build capacity in OST programs across New Mexico.
- Develop and strengthen participants' leadership skills.
- Deepen participant's understanding of program planning, assessment, and evaluation; partnership building; and fundraising.
- Form a group of leaders that will advocate for the expansion of high quality afterschool and summer learning programs with local and state leaders.



## Meet the 2025 OST-LI Cohort



Yaha Aguilera has been a humanitarian leader since 2019, starting as Director of the Las Cruces Asylum Shelter. At Save the Children, she supported asylum-seeking families at the border and later strengthened crisis response as Deputy Team Leader for the Afghan response at Ft. Bliss. Now, as New Mexico State Director for Save the Children, Yaha leads programming, advocacy, and fundraising for rural communities, excelling in cross-sector partnerships for sustainable change. Inspired to expand rural afterschool programs, she joins the OST Leadership Institute to gain expertise in system building and youth development. Yaha holds a double major in Graphic Design and Advertising from UTEP and enjoys ceramics, podcasts, and gardening.

State Director for NM  
Save the Children



With 24 years of experience in education, including 9 years in school administration, Sherri Rodriguez, is a dedicated leader committed to fostering student success and empowering educators. Passionate about creating inclusive learning environments, Sherri brings a wealth of knowledge in curriculum development, instructional leadership, and school management.

Outside of work, Sherri is a proud parent of four children and has been happily married for 21 years. As a long-time supporter of 4H and Girl Scouts, she is passionate about youth development and community engagement.

Director of Federal  
Programs  
Española  
Public Schools



Natalie received her B.A. in Political Science and a Master's in Business Administration with a concentration in Strategic Management and Policy from UNM. Natalie values the significance OST programs and their life changing impacts on our youth and communities. Leading educational research has shown that high quality OST programs positively impact students and their academic performance, but not only do academics greatly improve; attendance, social emotional skills, and overall well-being improve. These are just some of the factors that show the value and necessity of out-of-school time programming. From increased family engagement to connection to wrap-around services to lowering risky behaviors, OST programming provides a wealth of opportunity, growth, and nourishment for students and their communities that can be seen inside and outside the classroom. Natalie is committed to making sure vital OST programs are accessible and afforded to all New Mexican students and communities. Natalie looks forward to continuing to learn how to better serve and build our New Mexican communities, in community, together.

Community School  
Coordinator  
Albuquerque Collegiate  
Charter School

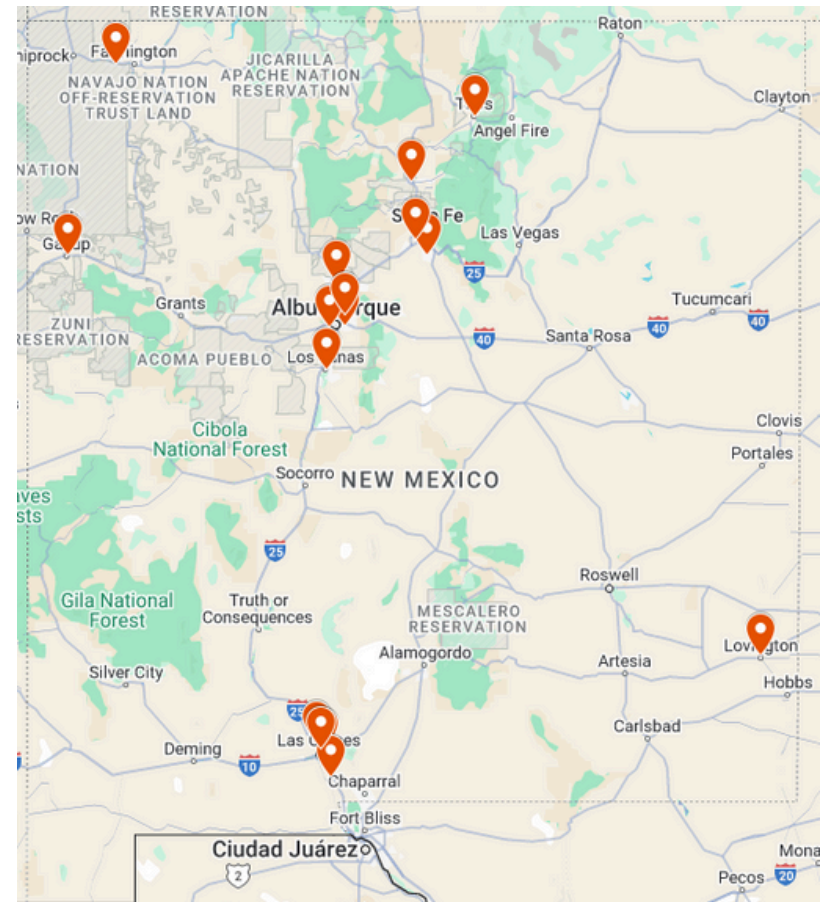


Cultural Connections  
Educator

Hozhó Academy

Celeste Rabago is of the Diné tribe from Gallup, NM and currently works for Hozhó Academy as a Cultural Connections Educator and National Indian Youth Leadership Project (NIYLP) as an experiential educator. She has been an elementary, middle school, and high school classroom teacher in Gallup, Shiprock, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. She earned her degree in History and Elementary Education from The University of New Mexico. Her role at Hozhó Academy and NIYLP has allowed her to learn, mentor educators, and work alongside Indigenous tribes within the United States supporting curriculum, lesson writing, facilitating, co-developing a school garden program, and planning youth programs. Through experience Celeste continues to grow professionally in Indigenous Education, Positive Youth Development, Leadership and Service-Learning in her community.

## Representing all of New Mexico







Nicole Tsinigine

New Mexico  
Lead Associate  
Save the Children

My name is Nicole Tsinigine, and I am New Mexico's Lead Associate for Save the Children, a role I've proudly held for the past two years. Before joining Save the Children, I spent seven years as an Early Childhood Educator, where I developed a deep commitment to supporting children's educational and emotional growth. In my current role, I focus on advocating for children who lack access to essential everyday resources. I've had the privilege of supporting districts in organizing summer school activities, including STEM enrichment and Cultural Heritage classes. Additionally, I help provide literacy and math support to students who are one grade level behind, working to close achievement gaps through the Science of Reading and Math Talks to get them back on track. I'm excited to join the OST Leadership Institute to further enhance my skills in program planning, assessment, evaluation, and partnership building. By strengthening these abilities, I aim to advocate more effectively for children, improve resource planning, and bring additional community resources to support their success. My passion for making a difference in children's lives drives my commitment to continually improving educational opportunities in my community.



Veronica Vigil

Director of Curriculum  
and Instruction  
Health Leadership  
High School

I was born and raised in Gallina, New Mexico. After graduation, I attended and graduated from Adams State College with a Bachelors in English in 2006 and then attended The University of New Mexico where I earned my Masters in Elementary Education/TESOL in 2009. I earned an educational administration certificate from New Mexico Highlands in 2019. I spent 12 years with the Rio Rancho Public Schools in various classroom and support roles. As a school administrator, I have served as Dean of Students and Director Curriculum and Instruction for an Albuquerque Public Schools Charter from 2020-2022. In July of 2022, I was named Assistant Principal of Cesar Chavez Elementary for the Santa Fe Public Schools and then promoted to principal of Sweeney Elementary later that year. I began my journey in secondary education as the Director of Community Schools and was then asked to take on the position of Curriculum and Assessment Director for Health Leadership High School in 2023-present. I believe in high quality instruction to promote student achievement and the development and success of all students. I promote the importance of cultivating and nurturing meaningful relationships with staff, students, and families.



Joe Wallace

Director  
Lovington  
Youth Center

Joe Wallace is the director of the Lovington Youth Center in Lovington, NM where he is a dedicated professional with a diverse background in both law enforcement and the oilfield industry. Over the years, he has developed a strong foundation in leadership and teamwork, which has shaped his approach to guiding others. Joe discovered his passion for teaching while in law enforcement, as he was an instructor at the Dallas County Sheriff's Academy. This led him to work with youth in sports and youth ministry. There, he has made a lasting impact by fostering growth, discipline, and character in the next generation. His unique combination of real-world experience and a heart for mentorship and service continues to inspire those he works with.



Judith Castillo

Program  
Coordinator  
RGEC

Judith Castillo's journey from mother of three to program coordinator began as an instructor at the Rio Grande Educational Collaborative, where her passion for nurturing young minds blossomed. This inspired her commitment to community impact. As program coordinator, she now oversees six tailored after-school programs across the East Mountains, Los Lunas, and Belen, empowering students academically and personally. Her goal is to create enriching environments that foster academic excellence and personal growth, equipping children for future success. Eager to enhance after-school program accessibility, Judith is dedicated to cultivating high-quality, safe, and engaging learning environments through the OST Leadership Institute.



Jianna Caviness

Program Supervisor  
Community Action  
Agency of SNM

Jianna Caviness began working as a program coordinator in the Kids Can Youth Entrepreneur program in February of 2020 at Community Action Agency. In 2024, she received an internal promotion to Program Supervisor for Kids Can. In 2009 she received her Master's degree in Social Work. She has experience working in various settings within our community which have included areas in Mental Health, Hospitals, and Special Education. During her time with Kids Can, she has been able to witness the growth of the program. She has been able to see how the KC program has positively impacted the youth in the community whether they have been involved in afterschool programs, summer camps, or special events. Her goal is to expand in the areas of identifying the mental health needs of youth while establishing working relationships with support staff in school districts. She believes that when prioritizing the mental health needs of youth, individuals become more creative and productive which leads to a more successful entrepreneurial journey. Aside from her work as a Program Supervisor, she is a busy mom of two girls who are now 14 and 11 years old. In her spare time, she focuses on her side job creating costumes for ballet productions and watercolor painting.



Normalinda Marquez

Librarian  
Vado Elementary  
School

Normalinda Marquez is a passionate educator with over 20 years dedicated to empowering underserved communities through literacy and STEM. Having witnessed education's transformative power, she's served the Gadsden Independent School District for two decades as an instructional assistant, librarian, STEM instructor, and for the past eight years, a site facilitator leading impactful afterschool programs. Her passion for OST stems from her son's positive experience, inspiring her to ensure all children have enriching opportunities. Seeing former students enroll their own children highlights the generational impact of her work. Eager to enhance her leadership, partnerships, and program strategies, Normalinda joins the OST Leadership Institute to advocate for sustainable, high-quality programming that uplifts her community for generations.



Brianna Martinez

Teen Area  
Director  
Boys & Girls  
Club of Santa Fe

Over the past four years, I've worked directly with youth ages 13 to 18, helping members build confidence, create meaningful connections, and develop leadership skills. I've developed and implemented programs that encourage personal growth, academic success, and community service throughout my career at the organization. One of my proudest accomplishments has been opening and establishing a new Tween Center in Valle Vista, specifically designed for youth ages 11-12. This space has expanded our reach, providing vital programming and resources to an underserved community and helping bridge the gap between childhood and the teen experience. I joined the OST-LI to expand my knowledge, connect with like-minded professionals, and learn innovative strategies that will help me better serve my teens. I'm excited to bring fresh ideas back to my community and to keep growing as a mentor, leader, and advocate for young people.



Leanna McClure

Leanna McClure (Oglala Lakota and Mescalero Apache) is a dedicated leader in out-of-school learning, with expertise in nonprofit leadership, curriculum design, and instruction. A doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at Northeastern University, she also holds an undergraduate degree in Ethnic Studies and two Master's degrees from Willamette University. Additionally, Leanna has a Diagnostician Certification through the University of New Mexico. As Founder and CEO of Kiksuyapi Consulting, Leanna is committed to empowering all youth, particularly those from underserved communities, through alternative education pathways. Her leadership roles include Executive Director of STEM Santa Fe, Program Manager at The Food Depot, and Tribal Liaison with the U.S. Department of Education. She also served as an administrator and Special Education and Math teacher at multiple schools, including Kha'p'o Community School, Santa Fe Indian School, and Von Tobel Middle School. Driven by a passion for culturally-grounded, equitable education since 2008, Leanna looks forward to collaborating with other leaders in the OST-LI to enhance her impact.



Deborah McLain

Daycare Director  
Los Lunas Schools

I have been an administrator for Project KEYS, the before-and after-school program for Los Lunas Schools, for 12 years. I began my career with Los Lunas Schools in 2008. During my time with the district, I oversaw the expansion of Project KEYS from two to four elementary schools and helped open Kiddie Cats Daycare for Los Lunas Schools employees' children. I am the mom of three exceptional adult children and three cherished grandchildren. I enjoy traveling with my husband and working in my garden/koi pond in my free time. My passion for supporting families in my community with high-quality, affordable childcare inspired me to join the OST Leadership Institute.



Alicia Thoma

OST Program  
Coordinator  
Explora Science  
Center and  
Children's Museum

Alicia Thoma is an OST Program Coordinator at the Explora Science Museum, where she helps blend STEAM education with social-emotional growth for youth. With over 10 years of experience as a licensed middle school teacher in the State of New Mexico, Alicia has a deep understanding of the educational needs of young learners and a passion for inspiring curiosity and personal growth both inside and outside the classroom. At Explora, Alicia plays a key role in the museum's partnership with Albuquerque Public Schools (APS), working to provide no-cost, enriching after-school programs at local middle schools. Through this partnership, she ensures that students have access to high-quality STEAM experiences that promote critical thinking, collaboration, and leadership skills that are essential for both academic success and personal development. She is excited to attend the OST Leadership Institute to enhance her leadership abilities, share best practices, and collaborate with fellow professionals to expand the impact of Explora's programs and its partnership with APS. Outside of work, Alicia enjoys spending quality time with her family. She is married and the proud mother of 7 adult children and 1 grandchild, who bring her immense joy and fulfillment.



Andy Triviz

Adult Learning  
Coordinator  
Ngage New Mexico

Andy supports educational initiatives that extend beyond the traditional classroom. Her passion for education began early—after tutoring a classmate in kindergarten, she recognized the power of learning in all forms. Andy immersed herself in out-of-school time programs as a student, gaining firsthand experience with the transformative impact of OST opportunities. That early involvement sparked a career that included roles at the NMSU STEM Outreach Center, where she began as a student assistant and later served as the Educational Resource Coordinator for the SEMAA program. Andy holds bachelor's degrees in Early Childhood Education and Spanish, as well as credentials in bilingual translation and interpretation. These allow her to bridge language gaps and connect meaningfully with families in her community. A strong advocate for equitable, creative, and accessible education, Andy is passionate about designing OST programming that supports the whole family. Through the OST Leadership Institute, she hopes to deepen her impact, grow as a leader, and help ensure all children have access to high-quality learning experiences beyond the school day.



Liana Baldonado Bayles

School Programs and  
STEM Coordinator  
Twirl, A Play and  
Discovery Space

My favorite moment working with kids is the "aha" one, when the light bulb goes off. The quiet right before, where the wheels are spinning and then "bing". I find it so satisfying!! And even better when I am having the moment right along with them. Teaching isn't about knowing and telling kids, it's about sharing and exploring together. I have been in education my entire adult life, either in classrooms or nonprofits. I loved teaching 4th grade; they are old enough to really dig in and yet still young enough to be kids. My current position has me taking play-based STEAM projects to kids in out-of-school time settings. For example, I take robots for kids to work with, or a series of audio explorations of sound, or rockets- fun educational projects. If we have time we dig in on the learning, if not so much, we play! The facts about me are I graduated from UCSC in politics '91 and got a second BA & MA at College of Santa Fe '98 in Education. I have taught grades 1st-8th and now am at Twirl.