

David Willden Addresses High Tech Consortium

This month's **High Tech Consortium (HTC) of Southern New Mexico** membership meeting features **David Willden**, Executive Director of the **Pecos Valley Regional Education Cooperative** in Artesia, New Mexico.

After working in the private sector for several years Willden began his education career as a volunteer C-Team Girls Basketball Coach at Farmington. He served as a coach, teacher, and principal in the Farmington Schools before accepting a position as the superintendent of the Raton Public Schools.

During his tenure at Raton, Willden began working with **Virgin Galactic** and **Spaceport America** on educational outreach programs. That work continues to this day. In his current role Willden champions and develops opportunities for students throughout the entire state of New Mexico.

The latest project he is working on is **Systems Go New Mexico**, a full-blown high school aerospace program sponsored by **NASA & Boeing**. Willdon is excited to bring actual "Rocket Science" to students from across the state.

Willden earned his bachelor's degree in History from Fort Lewis College in 1995 and a master's degree in Educational Administration from New Mexico State University in 2002.

The focus of his talk will be the **SystemsGo New Mexico**, a highly innovative high school rocketry/aeroscience curriculum that uses project-based learning to teach science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). It helps students develop skills in teamwork, problem solving, and leadership--while having fun. As a result, they are encouraged to pursue careers in engineering industries.

The program was featured on NBC Nightly News, is endorsed by **NASA**, and is certified by **The Space Foundation**. Presently it's used in high schools in Texas and New Mexico.

Graduates from the program work in leadership positions at NASA, SpaceX, Boeing, WSMR, and other prestigious industries and at schools across the country.

Come to our HTC meeting and hear more about this innovative program. For **SystemsGo New Mexico** students it really is rocket science!

HTC membership meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in growing technology in southern New Mexico is encouraged to attend.

The price for meeting attendance (no meal) is \$5 and meeting attendance with a meal is \$20.00 – check or cash preferred.

For more information contact **Terry Jack** at [masked]-3868.