

The Bridge of Southern New Mexico paving way for students

LAS CRUCES - Leadership of The Bridge of Southern New Mexico has signed two \$20,000 memorandums of understanding with New Mexico State University President Barbara Couture and Doña Ana Community College President Dr. Margie Huerta.

NMSU and DACC are continuing to support The Bridge, which is leading the state in connecting education, workforce development, and economic development to increase student graduation rates and prepare students to successfully enter the future work force, according to a news release.

NMSU and DACC have played key roles in supporting the research, planning, and implementation of some of The Bridge's initiatives.

The Doña Ana Community College's Workforce Center has been home to The Bridge and supported its infrastructure since its inception in 2009. This month, The Bridge is moving into new office space at the Arrowhead Park Early College High School. Arrowhead Park is one of the first major outcomes of the collaborative community work to connect business and education, so moving the organization to the school is a natural next step in The Bridge's growth, the news release said.

The Bridge is supported by the public and private sectors. In its first three years, the collaboration of NMSU, DACC, and Las Cruces Public Schools provided most of the organization's funding. Private sector funding support has increased greatly over the past two years, both

through three-year partnerships with local businesses and the investment from private

foundations like the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the BNSF Foundation.

Local businesses that have funded The Bridge include: El Paso Electric, US Bank, Pioneer Bank, Las Cruces Machines, Sitel, CenturyLink, Gen-Con Construction, Citizens Bank of Las Cruces, Advanced Care Hospital of Southern New Mexico, TRAX, NMSU's College of Education, Jacobs Technologies, Sunspot Solar, Adventure Travel, MVEDA, Northrise Ventures, the Hispano Chamber, and Digital Solutions.

To learn more about The Bridge of Southern New Mexico, visit the website at thebridgeofsnm.com.