



Your **Children's Miracle Network** Hospital 



UNM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Connected Academy School Updates - Success Through Community & Collaboration

The continued success of the New Mexico Credit Union Association (CUANM) Connected Academy has resulted in an increase in demand from our in-patient population at UNM Children's Hospital.

Currently, the Mimbres School at UNMCH has a total of four teachers. Due to the high demand of our patient population at the CUANM Connected Academy, we have reallocated two of our Children's Psychiatric Center teachers to fill educational gaps for the Connected Academy.



Our mission is to meet the educational needs of all eligible patients at UNM Children's Hospital and UNM Children's Psychiatric Center. Previously this has been accomplished through an on-line learning platform with in-person educators supporting and enhancing the on-line curriculum along the way.

This year, the faculty set a goal to incorporate a more hands-on approach wherein the students are actively engaged in their learning while participating and collaborating with their peers. However, with a complex student population and staff shortages, we continue to fall behind in meeting our patient's educational needs due to a lack of capacity.

Moving forward we are looking for support to hire additional licensed teachers to fully staff our district needs.



Pediatric Patients continuing education in the CUANM Connected Academy at UNM Children's Hospital

In May of 2022 teacher Jennifer Jung joined the team at UNM Children's Connected Academy. Jennifer comes to us with a wealth of experience, having taught in several areas across the country, with her most recent position as a magnet school science teacher. Jennifer is currently working with our middle school students as well as our infusion patients.

Shortly after joining the Connected Academy Jennifer became a valuable asset. Within the first 6 months, she has partnered with the UNM Foundation, Volunteer Services, and generous community partners to help us achieve our goal of increasing the hands-on approach at CUANM.

Learn more about the exciting programs Jennifer is helping to launch on page two under "Program Creation".

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Academic year 2021 - 2022

The goal of The CUANM Connected Academy is to allow children to continue their education despite medical barriers. Our hope is that if able, students can rejoin their local schools to continue their education amongst their neighbors and friends.

After this summer, several students were able to transfer back to their local schools, and we hope to have a few more return to their local schools at the end of this semester.

Enrollment at the Connected Academy has been steady, with a waiting list, and classrooms are full of children eager to continue their education.

In 2021 we were able to obtain a School Information System, MarkersPro. This is a major improvement and help for the organization, allowing us to report data to the state and begin keeping attendance.

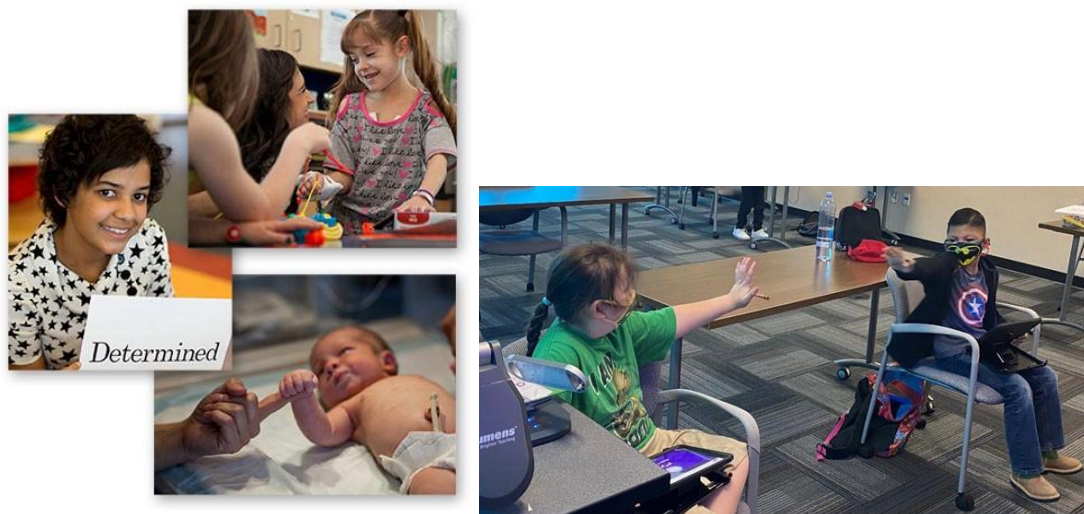
Next year, we aim to be able to use it for grading, report cards, assessment, and other tasks that assist with organization of essential school tasks.

We are happy to announce that we've also been able to support students that remain enrolled in-home school programs but may be with us for several weeks or months.

In 2022 we were able to purchase services from an Educational Diagnostician part-time, which allowed us to evaluate students for special education services.

Although it was only a small allotment, this was a huge step in our growth. We are learning a lot about the evaluation process, and we hope to continue to develop in this area.

We are hoping to develop a funding source to continue and expand this essential service for our students.



Patients not only continue their learning but connect with a peer group of similar aged students which promotes mental health and wellbeing.

Program Creation STEM at UNMCH

To inspire the next generation of STEM professionals we've collaborated with the UNM Foundation and the UNM School of Engineering to launch a STEM program at the Connected Academy!

Students will be exposed to age-appropriate STEM activities available on and off campus including field trips to UNM laboratories, workshops on robotics and coding, access to aerospace professional mentoring, and more.

These opportunities will be offered in our classrooms, bedside, and within the child life department.

Moving forward, we hope to offer STEM activities to all pediatric patients at UNMCH through our Child Life Department.

As the only children's hospital in the state, we're looking for interested corporate partners to help us fund, envision, and create sustainable and exciting programs.

Looking Ahead

With our students having such unique needs, Connected Academy is looking to expand our capacity to accommodate students requiring Special Education needs and responsibilities.

Moving forward, creating equitable educational experiences for our students will be a key goal as well as a considerable undertaking.

As students at Connected Academy continue to enroll and thrive, we hope to also expand the following support services: licensed Art Therapists, Educational Diagnosticians, and additional licensed Teachers.

We are so thankful for the credit union community support we continue to receive. Without CUANM and their network, Connected Academy would continue to exist in the minds of our patients and staff.

