



PRESS RELEASE

NM EDGE WORKS WITH COUNTY CLERKS TO UPDATE CERTIFICATION CURRICULUM

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ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - NM EDGE, a program of the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service under the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES), has been working with county clerks from across the State of New Mexico to redesign its NM Certified County Clerk class content so that it better aligns with the role of the modern county clerk.

This includes a sharper focus on the day-to-day operation of the office. Class content now covers a wide range of topics from voter file management and election logistics to the handling and inspection of public records. Also new to the class content is a greater emphasis on project management. Spearheaded by Santa Fe County Clerk, Katharine Clark, the updated certification includes two new classes developed by Clerk Clark which approach election planning and process improvement through a project management lens. Said Katharine Clark, "I am deeply passionate about giving county clerks and their staff the tools, training, and national-level resources they need to thrive. Modernizing this certification program was about more than updating class content — it was about making sure every clerk in New Mexico is equipped to meet today's challenges with confidence and skill. When we invest in their success, we strengthen the integrity, efficiency, and transparency of government for every New Mexican."

Clerk Clark also invited NM EDGE to attend an Election Center workshop in April to explore the alignment of the NM EDGE clerks' curriculum with standards set forth by the National Association of Election

Officials and the Certified Elections Registration Administrator (CERA) certification which is original professional certification for election administrators in the United States. According to NM EDGE Program Director, Christy Green, this presented a unique opportunity to align the New Mexico County Clerks Certification with national standards and recognition. “NM EDGE appreciates the insight and guidance provided by Clerk Clark as we look to better align with national organizations such as the Election Center and the Project Management Institute. Her leadership in this area, as well as the commitment and dedication of all those who volunteered their time to serve on the curriculum committee, is invaluable to the mission of NM EDGE: Better Government through Education.”

Other clerk curriculum committee members include Kristy Brusso, Bureau of Elections Worker and Voter Outreach Coordinator, Santa Fe County; Sylvia Chavez, County Clerk of Torrance County; Michael Eshleman, Sandoval County Attorney; Cindy Fuller, County Clerk of Chaves County; Janice Giron, Elections Supervisor, Doña Ana County; Brenda Green, Chief Deputy Clerk of Valencia County; Nathan Jaramillo, Bureau of Elections Administrator, Bernalillo County; Michelle Kavanaugh, County Clerk of Bernalillo County; Rosangela Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk of Santa Fe County; Mandi Park, County Clerk of Roosevelt County, and Angelica Valenzuela, Recording and Filing Supervisor, Doña Ana County.

About NM EDGE

NM EDGE is a nationally recognized professional development program housed within New Mexico State University’s Cooperative Extension Service. The program’s mission is to strengthen the knowledge and skills of public servants through education, ultimately supporting better government throughout the state.

To learn more about NM EDGE certification opportunities, visit <https://nmedge.nmsu.edu> .