

# EAGA Business Builder

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## Today's guest speaker was Mike May—Future Focused Education



Mr. May is the Director of Workforce Learning at Future Focused Education. The mission of the organization is “to create healthier and more prosperous communities by advancing the best education for the students who need it the most.” FFE is making an effort to recruit, train and invest in young talent from communities all around New Mexico. The efforts started with high school age folks and has been so successful that they are now expanding the program to include 16 to 23 year old students whether in high school, CNM, UNM or the formal training programs. The object is to recruit, retain and invest in young talent and connect them with work opportunities in their local area. The program works by providing a mentoring type arrangement between a business person (mentor) and the students where the students become actual workers at the

mentor's establishment. It is a paid internship system. A basic explanation is that Future Focused Education (FFE) is the placement agency; the mentor's company pays FFE \$3,000 to have the student perform work at their business for a period of 13 weeks and the students agree to properly perform the specified duties for that period of time. The students, however, are employees of FFE and are not employees of that company. There are no additional employee relationship type of costs to the business. FFE pays the students' wages of \$12 per hour, and FFE pays all pertinent taxes and insurance costs. That setup is standard for how employee placement agencies work, but FFE is a lot more than that. They want to make sure that their programs are completely successful in accomplishing the goal of keeping local talent as productive professionals within their own community. FFE intends to provide everything they can to foster relationships that allow students an easy pathway for transitioning from the school environment into a work place environment. FFE has tried to incorporate plans, and solutions, for every potential hurdle that may arise as they and their associates progress toward accomplishing the ultimate goal. FFE provides training for both the mentors and the students to make each placement successful. The mentors can often use assistance and guidance about how to design and implement a successful mentor program. The students need advice on what to expect, how to behave, what is expected from them in a professional environment, and how to handle day to day activities within a real work situation (surprising to some, the school world is different from the professional working world). The FFE programs provide an opportunity for the students to gain actual workplace learning, but also to achieve an understanding of the work world, while giving them a chance to build valuable relationships which could be of benefit as they transition out of the educational environment and into careers. With that constant goal of complete success, FFE staff provides input and assistance throughout each deployment. They work with the mentor and the student for a proper understanding of what is expected; they coach the students on responsibility and dedication, and FFE does whatever is reasonably needed to achieve that success. FFE provides students with equipment when required by the job; FFE has options to help with child care services when needed; and FFE will assist with transportation in emergency cases (the students are told up front that it is the 'real world' and in it, they have the responsibility to get to the workplace on time. And along those lines, the students are expected to solve their own transportation issues that may arise from time to time. However FFE will come to their aid with an occasional Uber ride or other transportation if really needed for the student that is really trying to achieve their commitment to be at work). FFE's programs include periodic review, with involvement from both mentor and student, in order to make sure that all is progressing satisfactorily. FFE staff uses apps and other technologies to monitors progress as each program is in progress, and that gives them an opportunity to intervene if needed before a situation becomes a major complication. So far there have been approximately 500 placements in the FFE internship programs. About 33% of those folks have been subsequently hired for full time positions at the mentoring company. As noted earlier, FFE is determined to do whatever they can to help keep talented young adults with working and succeeding in New Mexico, and FFE will initiate a program in any community throughout the state. This is a very valuable program for our state and we appreciate Mr. May taking his time this morning to make us all aware of its existence and of the benefits that is is providing. If you can provide an internship opportunity (if you are looking for workers, an internship may be just the solution for you); if you know of someone that can provide that opportunity; if you know of a young adult that could use some advice or assistance with transitioning from education into the realm of the professionals; or if you just want to help local young people to stay in our communities as they provide a productive and beneficial additions to our local society, you can contact Mr. May via his email [mike@futurefocusededucation.org](mailto:mike@futurefocusededucation.org) and let him know. You can also visit the Future Focused Education website <https://futurefocusededucation.org/> for more information on what they do, what they need, or for instruction on how you can just provide a donation.

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## Leads & Business Information:

HOLD THE APPLAUSE PRODUCTIONS is going in at 6909 Menaul NE, Ste C  
- Lionel Specter—ZEON Signs

- ◆ On December 14th, we will hold elections for two Board of Director positions. If you are interested in running for one of the available seats, please contact Raul Rodriguez (info@thekingsofwrap.com or via phone number 505-453-8020) as soon as possible.
- ◆ The holiday party will be from 6pm to 11pm on December 11th at Hotel Albuquerque. Sign-up sheets will be available at breakfast on Tuesday. You won't want to miss this always great event. Guest fee for the event will be \$125 per person. If you do signup and then have a change in plans, please notify Mario before December 6th. That is the final cutoff date and EAGA will be responsible for the cost of any reservations after that date.
- ◆ Our new paper directories have been printed and are now available for you to get at our Tuesday breakfast meetings. Please take only one for now. Later on you will have an opportunity to take an additional copy, but we need to make sure that they remain available for each member to get one. Mario will determine when additional copies are an option. To make the information more conveniently available, there is also a pdf version of the directory available. One of them is attached to the email with this bulletin.
- ◆ First announcement for a prospective new member:

New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC)  
Representative: Larry C Sonntag  
Category: Pro-Business Advocacy & Government Relations  
Sponsors: Rich Rosley and Kevin Lorenzen

If you have an objection to this company becoming a member, or if you have information that you feel should be considered during the review process, please contact our Membership Committee Chairman, Jack Zipper (jdzipper@comcast.net or via phone at 505-259-5959) as soon as possible.

## Badge Board Greeters

Nov 16 <sup>th</sup>	Joe Sierra—Century Bank
Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup>	No meeting—Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 30 <sup>th</sup>	
Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	
Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>	No meeting—Christmas Holiday
Dec 28 <sup>th</sup>	No meeting—New Years Day Holiday

## Upcoming Speakers

Nov 16 <sup>th</sup>	Guest Speaker - Danielle Casey—Albuquerque Economic Development
Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup>	No meeting—Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 30 <sup>th</sup>	John Mead—John Thomas Jewelers
Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	Chuck Osborne—Steamatic
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	Speaker not scheduled. Board elections and other general discussions.
Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>	No meeting—Christmas Holiday
Dec 28 <sup>th</sup>	No meeting—New Years Day Holiday

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