

Learning about Community Resources

Fort Lewis College

Durango, Co



COLORADO
Department of Education

LEARNING ABOUT COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Education Professors at Fort Lewis College understand the importance of pre-service teachers learning how to partner with families and the community. Education-majors have the opportunity to take a course to learn research-based strategies to work with families and leverage community relationships.

The goal of the class, Learning about Community Resources, is to help pre-service teachers learn about partnering and connecting with families and community resources. Students in ED329, Family and Community Relationships, are tasked with giving a presentation to classmates and peers about local community resources and school partnerships which positively impact families in an elementary school classroom. These future teachers are asked to communicate basic information about a chosen community partner and its relevance for families and education as a whole; information communicated includes the community partner's mission and goals, population served, programs and events offered, desired outcomes, ways to refer families, and any volunteering, partnership, or internship opportunities available.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

Soon-to-be educators gain knowledge and skills in ways to effectively communicate with every family in a culturally competent way. Class participants learn how to create meaningful partnerships with families and community members or organizations which are focused on student success. Students indirectly benefit by having teachers who are able to effectively engage with their families and their communities, which positively impacts their academic futures.