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\$250K grant for LANL Foundation will pay for science kits, teacher development

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How many science kits and how much learning can a quarter of a million dollars buy?

Just ask the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation, which recently received a \$250,000 grant from Santa Fe-based Anchorum Health Foundation via the New Mexico Foundation for a program that funds kits and instruction for more than 3,000 students in Northern New Mexico, ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade.

The money will pay for the kits for students at 19 schools including in Española Public Schools, Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools, Peñasco Independent School District, Cuba and Questa independent schools, Jemez Mountain Schools, Ohkay Owingeh Community School and McCurdy Charter School in Española, Anchorum announced in a news release Wednesday.

The Inquiry Science Education Consortium program also supports about 140 teachers at those schools. Teachers have the opportunity to attend a summer LANL Foundation program for “inquiry science,” and a new

leadership fellowship program the foundation launched this year.

“We are grateful for this partnership to continue supporting the amazing educators and students across Northern New Mexico,” Gwen Perea Warniment, president and CEO of the LANL Foundation, said in a statement. “ISEC has been a mainstay in Northern New Mexican schools for the past 15 years, and this funding allows us to continue supporting our rural and tribal education partners in fostering classrooms that are driven by inquiry and grounded in collaboration, compassion and community.”

The Anchorum money is part of the organization's 10-year commitment to put \$200 million toward making Northern New Mexico a healthier region, using some of the proceeds the group's organizational predecessor obtained when it divested from Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center last year.

Anchorum so far has committed \$25 million to five community foundations in Northern New Mexico and another \$20 million for a clinical fund to benefit Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center.

Perea Warniment said the kits will be used for lessons around topics such as motion, energy, Earth and sun systems and water and climate. As to how those topics relate to making Northern New Mexico healthier, Anchorum spokesperson Maddy Mahony wrote in an email Wednesday education is part of a healthy community, fostering curiosity, skills and professional development for students.

"This dual approach strengthens educational outcomes and career readiness for both groups," Mahony wrote.



Anchorum Health Foundation unveils plan to pump \$25M to Northern N.M. community foundations



Anchorum gives \$20M to Christus St. Vincent efforts as part of multi-year plan to boost health

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