

MONTE DEL SOL CHARTER SCHOOL

Presents

The 26th Mentorship Festival of Learning

April 22, April 23 & April 24, 2026



**Monte del Sol Charter School
Institute of American Indian Arts
The Lensic**

“The main learnings I have taken away were factors of resilience, confidence, and extending kindness. Resilience is important to be able to withstand emotional or complex issues with ease. It is not an attribute that teaches to hide or mask emotions but how to redirect them into something positive. I have never been one to be an unkind person but from this, I have been able to see first-hand how far kindness can travel – especially in the lives of those who are still learning to navigate emotions and difficult feelings. *Myself included.*
– Monte del Sol Protégé



If this celebration inspires you to become a mentor
or support the program, please contact:
Giselle Piburn, Director, Mentorship Program
(505) 982-5225 x 115 • gpiburn@montedelsol.org
www.montedelsolcharterschool.org

Front cover photos, clockwise:

Protégé, Anthony Vigil, 'Fly Fishing,' mentor, McKenna Worden
Protégé, Lorenne Felix, 'Taxidermy,' mentor, Tania Pacheco
Protégé, Kimberly Guevara Perez, 'Fine Arts,' mentor, Lisa Flynn
Protégé, Marcos Urioste, 'Piano,' mentor, Charly Drobeck

Inside front cover photo:

Protégé, Jordyn James, 'Photography,' mentor, Gail MacQuesten

Inside back cover photo: by Kitty Leaken

Protégé, Hailey Benavidez, 'Photography,' mentor, Kitty Leaken

Back cover photos: © Gabriella Marks Photography

L (top to bottom):

Protégé, Damien Crawford, 'Sewing,' mentor, Patricia Wagner
Protégé, Anezza Avalos, 'Sports Psychology,' mentor, Michelle Velarde

Protégé, Freddy Lozoya, 'Trumpet,' mentor, Daniel Pearlman

Protégé, Alyssa Gonzales, 'Football,' mentor, Joey Butler

Middle

Protégé, Samuel Walling, 'Philosophy & Writing,' mentor, Criss Jay

Right (top to bottom):

Protégés Aime Hernandez, Destany Gonzalez, Raquel Lerma,
'Cosmetology,' mentor, Marisol Chavez

Protégé, Jimmie Fernando Barba, 'Saxophone,' mentor, Jerry Weimer

Protégé, Amara Harcharik, 'Guitar,' mentor, Mikey Baker

Program Design + Management: Judy Herzl



Monte del Sol Charter School

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The 26th Mentorship Festival of Learning

April 22, April 23 & April 24, 2026

Monte del Sol Charter School
Institute of American Indian Arts
The Lensic

Shortened school days · Required attendance for all Monte students 7-12

No one will be at Monte del Sol campus on Thursday or Friday

School buses will drop off and pick up regular bus students at the Festival locations

LOCATIONS

- 4/22 Wednesday: 8:30 am – 1:30 pm · Monte del Sol Charter School (see address below)
4/22 Wednesday: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm · Evening Culinary Session at Monte del Sol Charter School
4/23 Thursday: 8:15 am – 12:00 pm · IAIA · 83 A Van Nu Po, Santa Fe, NM 87508 (505) 424-2300
(NOT the Indian School downtown; 5 miles south of Monte & adjacent to ATC Charter School)
4/24 Friday: 8:15 am - 12:05 pm · The Lensic · 211 W San Francisco St, Santa Fe, NM 87501

PARKING & SITE INFO

Monte del Sol

Tony Gerlicz Gathering Space at Monte del Sol
School Parking Lot, 4157 Walking Rain Rd. Santa Fe, NM 87507

The Institute for American Indian Arts (IAIA)

IAIA Commons - second floor (#4 on the map - CLE) · IAIA Auditorium (#5 on the map - Library & Tech)

Please Note: Entrance 1 is the ONLY choice for parking and the ONLY choice for dropping off.

(See campus map for details on following page)

The Lensic

City Lots by Post Office and Lensic (not free), or street meters, two-hour limit
City Lot, entrance on Galisteo by Manhattan (free all day), about 5 blocks away

IAIA CAMPUS

Directions & Map

(505) 424-2325 • www.iaia.edu

DIRECTIONS

SOUTH BOUND

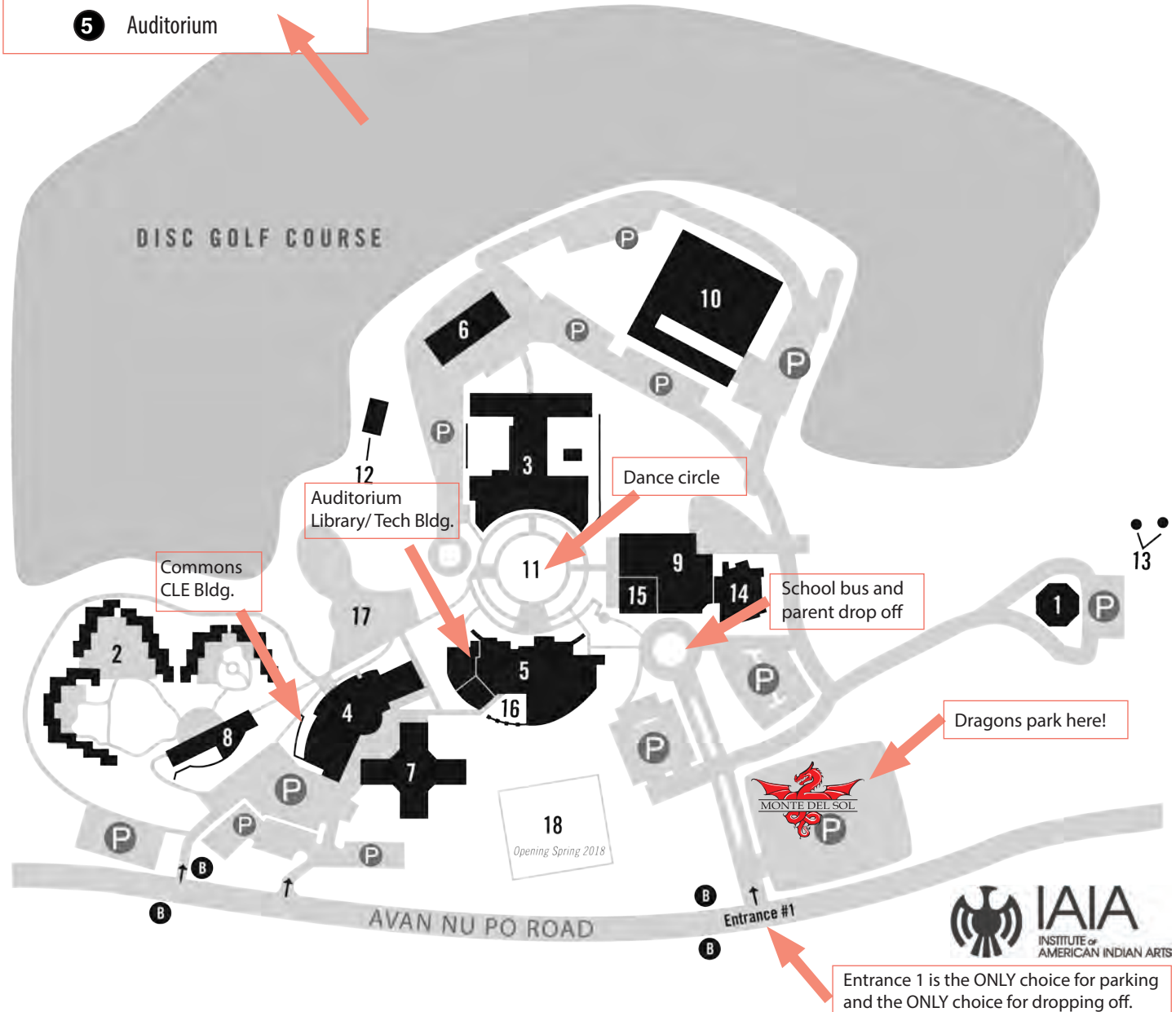
Exit 278B (NM 14)
Make a LEFT onto NM 14
Make a LEFT onto Rancho Viejo Blvd.
Make a RIGHT onto Avenida Del Sur
Make a LEFT on Avan Nu Po Road

NORTH BOUND

Exit 278 (NM 14)
Make a RIGHT onto NM 14
Make a LEFT onto Rancho Viejo Blvd.
Make a RIGHT onto Avenida Del Sur
Make a LEFT on Avan Nu Po Road

BUILDING KEY

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1 Hogan | 6 Facilities & Receiving | 11 Dance Circle | 16 The Haozous Garden |
| 2 Family Housing | 7 Residence Center | 12 Green House | 17 USDA Agricultural Field |
| 3 Academic Classrooms | 8 Fitness & Wellness Center | 13 Sweat Lodges | 18 Performing Arts & Fitness Center |
| 4 Center for Lifelong Education (CLE)
Center for Student Life / Cafeteria | 9 Barbara & Robert Ells
Science & Technology Building | 14 Lloyd Kiva New
Welcome Center | B City of Santa Fe
Bus Stop |
| 5 Library & Technology Center | 10 Allan Houser Haozous
Sculpture & Foundry Building | 15 Digital Dome | P Parking |
| 4 Commons | | | |
| 5 Auditorium | | | |



WE WISH TO THANK

All our mentors and protégés who pursue passions, take risks
and connect inter-generationally making this program thrive!

The boards of Monte del Sol Charter School for their continued support of the Mentorship Program

Our Head Learner, Dr. Zoë Nelsen, for her visionary leadership and her passion for mentorship

Monte del Sol Founder, Tony Gerlicz and Paquita Hernandez for envisioning this transformative program

Assistant Director Judy Herzl for ten years of professional, loving dedication to mentorship —
and for her design savvy that has helped bring it to life. You are missed!

Simon Boses for joining our mentorship team with gusto and ingenuity

Alejandra Macias for continuing her heartfelt and intelligent support • Marisol Armendariz our adroit student aide

James Clemens for his backstage moral support • Donicia Herrera and Jeanette Alt for editorial astuteness

Pablo Cerquera for his unparalleled technical wizardry

Our media tech team: John Przyborowski, Pablo “Pablito” Cerquera, Raul Garcia and Udell Calzadillas

Benjamin Harris, our intrepid office manager for juggling everything so gracefully

Gerald Ulibarri for generously sharing his kitchen and supporting our culinary mentors and our program
with delicious food and his calm and kind demeanor & cooks Raul Puentes and Edith Meraz

Beth Koch, our masterful manager of the culinary MAE event • Family help including Carina Erives,
Graciela Bojorquez, Karol Rubio, Marcella Armijo and Rosa Sotelo

Michael Granados and his student leaders and NHS for their vital roles making our events run smoothly

Cruz Ontiveros for invaluable event support • Jose Guevara and The Printers XS for sharp eyes and generous hearts

Ana Luisa Event Rentals for their generosity and contributions to our mentorship events

Yolanda Cardenas for staging and rehearsal guidance • Gabriella Marks for her potent photography

~

Monte del Sol faculty and staff for getting behind the festival every year

Monte del Sol faculty, alumni and kin who are mentors this year

Alan Stanton, Brian Romereau, Carla Evans, Daniel Pearlman, Dienke Nauta, Edwin Ochoa, Enrique Guerrero, Enrique Otero,

Gail MacQuesten, Jake Herzenberg, Jennifer Sanchez, Joey Butler, John Paul Granillo, John Przyborowski,

Jose Dominguez, Katie Douthit, Keegan Crumpacker, Mario Garcia, Margarita Blanco, McKenna Worden,

Michael Granados - Mr. G, Michelle Velarde, Patricia Wagner, Raul Garcia, Sylvia LaMar, Tim Brown, Vanessa Rivera

We are deeply grateful to our anonymous donors for their meaningful support
of the Mentorship Program, and the following donors below.



Thank you to Anchorum Health Foundation for six years of support of the Mentorship Program and of Monte del Sol



Thank you to the Aurora Charitable Fund for your support of the Mentorship Program and Monte del Sol



Thank you to The Lensic Performing Arts Center and their wonderful staff for their exceptional support of our students.



We would like to thank IAIA and their staff for their generosity and for making us feel like family.

Letter from Giselle Piburn Mentorship Program Director

Greetings Monte del Sol community—protégés, mentors, faculty, staff, students, families and friends,

¡Bienvenidos a nuestro Festival de Aprendizaje del Programa de Mentoría!

Welcome to our Mentorship Festival of Learning. Over its three days, you will witness students sharing the story of their mentorship year. These presentations are more than reports on projects—they are reflections on curiosity, growth, courage, and discovery.

We are living in a world that can feel loud—reactive, fast to judge, and slow to listen. Young people are growing up inside that noise. But mentorship offers something different.

Where the world often says perform, post, win, be certain, mentoring invites students to listen, ask questions, sit with uncertainty, and stay curious. It is a radical act of attention: one adult consistently showing up—not to evaluate performance, but to encourage a young person's learning. To our mentors: thank you. In a divided world, you build bridges. In a distracted world, you give attention. In a transactional culture, you give time.

For 26 years, Monte del Sol has sustained this practice of learning through relationship. Mentorship is not a side project; it's central to who we are and to the kind of graduates we hope to grow—curious, compassionate, and prepared to participate in the wider world.

I also want to take this moment to welcome Simon Boses as our new Assistant Director, bringing energy and enthusiasm to our mentorship team, and to offer heartfelt gratitude to Judy Herzl for her passionate service as our Assistant Director over the last ten years. Her insight and sensitivity have shaped countless mentor-protégé relationships. She has a remarkable ability to recognize matches that feel intrinsically right, fostering growth, confidence, and meaningful connections.

And to our students: thank you for the courage to share your journeys with our community. We are honored to witness your learning.

Please join us in celebrating the curiosity, relationships, and discovery that make mentorship such a powerful part of the Monte del Sol experience.



Letter from Dr. Zoë Nelsen Monte del Sol Head Learner



For 26 years, the Mentorship Program has been a beacon of hope, connecting Monte del Sol Charter School students directly with members of the broader Santa Fe community. The hope lives in the possibilities that arise for youth when community members are willing to share their expertise with our students. These relationships are foundational to rebuilding community connections that, over the years, have grown more distant due to shifts in societal structures.

More than ever, I see the immense need for educational structures to shift and for communities to meet the call to deepen integration and more impactful engagement in educating our youth. For more than two decades, the Mentorship Program has demonstrated the importance of learning by doing, the power of relationships, and the significance of student choice. These pockets of transformative potential are positioned to meet students' needs.

I see this moment in Monte's evolution as an opportunity to revitalize hope and position Mentorship as a driving force in transforming our students' experience. Over the next few years, we will lean on Mentorship to help shape essential learning for our students, school, and the broader community.

Onward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zoë Nelsen", followed by a horizontal line.

When do I present? · Horario de presentación

Protégé		venue	#	date	day	time
Adam	Lopez	Monte	#3	4/22/26	Wed	12:15
Adilene	Gutierrez	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Adrian	Ibarra	Monte	#3	4/22/26	Wed	12:15
Adriana	Ramos	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Adriel	Garcia	IAIA	#5a	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Aiden	Lopez	Monte	#1	4/22/26	Wed	8:45
Aime	Hernandez	Lensic	#8	4/24/26	Fri	10:30
Alana	Rivera	Lensic	#8	4/24/26	Fri	10:30
Alanzo	Baca	Lensic	#7	4/24/26	Fri	8:40
Alexandra	Otero	IAIA	#5a	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Alexxa	Avalos-T	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Allison	Rojero	IAIA	#6a	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Alyssa	Gonzales	IAIA	#5b	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Amara	Harcharik	Monte	#2	4/22/26	Wed	10:15
Amrit	Bhandal	Lensic	#7	4/24/26	Fri	8:40
Amrit	Bhandal	IAIA	#5a	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Andrew	Hurtado	IAIA	#6b	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Anezza	Avalos	IAIA	#6a	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Anthony	Vigil	Monte	#3	4/22/26	Wed	12:15
Antonio	Trujillo III	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Areidy	Gonzalez	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Ariella	Miller	Lensic	#8	4/24/26	Fri	10:30
Ayden	Downing	Lensic	#7	4/24/26	Fri	8:40
Bella	De La Torre	IAIA	#6a	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Camila	Erives	Monte	#1	4/22/26	Wed	8:45
Carla	Veleta	Monte	#1	4/22/26	Wed	8:45
Christopher	Rodriguez	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Cittlaly	Guerrero	IAIA	#5a	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Damien	Crawford	Monte	#2	4/22/26	Wed	10:15
Daniela	Bencomo	IAIA	#6a	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Daniela	Bencomo	IAIA	#5b	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Daniella	Herrera	IAIA	#6a	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Destany	Gonzalez	Lensic	#8	4/24/26	Fri	10:30
Diana	Sanchez	Monte	#1	4/22/26	Wed	8:45
Diego	Valladares	Lensic	#8	4/24/26	Fri	10:30
Dominic	Montoya	Monte	#3	4/22/26	Wed	12:15
Donicio	Hernandez	Monte	#3	4/22/26	Wed	12:15
Doran	Johansen	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Emmanuel	Caraveo	Monte	#2	4/23/26	Wed	10:15

Protégé		venue	#	date	day	time
Erick	Gallegos	Monte	#2	4/22/26	Wed	10:15
Evrett	Laemmle-E	IAIA	#5b	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Felicia	Chavez	IAIA	#5a	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Freddy	Lozoya	Lensic	#7	4/24/26	Fri	8:40
Gael	Saldivar	IAIA	#6a	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Hailey	Benavidez	Monte	#1	4/22/26	Wed	8:45
Isaac	Aragon	Monte	#3	4/22/26	Wed	12:15
Isaac	Rojero	IAIA	#5b	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Isayah	Evridge	Lensic	#7	4/24/26	Fri	8:40
Ismael	Avila	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Jacob	Sullivan	Lensic	#7	4/24/26	Fri	8:40
Jarahy	Portillo	Monte	#2	4/22/26	Wed	10:15
Jared	Guevara P	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Jimmie F	Barba	Lensic	#8	4/24/26	Fri	10:30
Joe	Armijo	IAIA	#6a	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Jonah	Girdner	Monte	#3	4/22/26	Wed	12:15
Jordyn	James	IAIA	#6b	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Joshua	Langwell	Monte	#1	4/22/26	Wed	8:45
Joziah	Romero	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Juancarlos	Hernandez	IAIA	#6b	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Julian	Brook-Sena	Monte	#1	4/22/26	Wed	8:45
Jyles	Burns	IAIA	#6b	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Keshav	Alumolu	IAIA	#5a	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Kimberly	Guevara P	Lensic	#8	4/24/26	Fri	10:30
Kristopher	Bautista	Monte	#3	4/22/26	Wed	12:15
Leonardo	Morales	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Leslee	Briceño-R	IAIA	#6b	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Liam	Walson	IAIA	#5b	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Lilo	Moya	IAIA	#5b	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Loralei	Falk	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Lorenne	Felix	Monte	#2	4/22/26	Wed	10:15
Luis	Murga	IAIA	#6b	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Mannie	Iturralde	Monte	#9	tbd	tbd	tbd
Manraj	Singh	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Manuel	Urioste	IAIA	#5a	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Marcos	Urioste	Lensic	#8	4/24/26	Fri	10:30
Mari	Archuleta	Lensic	#8	4/24/26	Fri	10:30
Marisol	Armendariz	Monte	#2	4/22/26	Wed	10:15
Marisol	Hall	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30

When do I present? · Horario de presentación

Protégé		venue	#	date	day	time
Michael	Gonzales	IAIA	#5a	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Miguel	Molina	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Nico	Lucero	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Niza Cipatly	Valadez	Monte	#2	4/22/26	Wed	10:15
Nolyn	Ortiz	IAIA	#5b	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Paul	Roybal	Monte	#3	4/22/26	Wed	12:15
Quinn	Hanus	Lensic	#7	4/24/26	Fri	8:40
Raquel	Lerma	Lensic	#8	4/24/26	Fri	10:30
Raul	Ledezma	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30
Rurabi	Cerda	Monte	#1	4/22/26	Wed	8:45
Ryan	Crayne	Lensic	#8	4/24/26	Fri	10:30
Samuel	Walling	Lensic	#7	4/24/26	Fri	8:40
Sierra	Ybarra	Monte	#9	tbd	tbd	tbd
Taylor	Hewlett	Lensic	#7	4/24/26	Fri	8:40
Taylor	Hewlett	IAIA	#5a	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Tucker	Rhoades	IAIA	#6b	4/23/26	Thur	10:45
Ubaldo	Castillo	Monte	#3	4/22/26	Wed	12:15
Victor	Montoya	IAIA	#5b	4/23/26	Thur	8:40
Walter	Tuchan	Monte	#4	4/22/26	Wed	5:30

“Because of your guidance, I have grown both creatively and personally. You influenced the way I see myself and my abilities, and you helped me develop values like dedication, creativity, and self-belief. I will always appreciate the lessons you taught me and the impact you had on my growth. Thank you again for being such an inspiring teacher and mentor.” – Monte del Sol Protégé



DAILY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 22 Monte del Sol Charter School	Thursday, April 23 Institute of American Indian Arts ~ Concurrent Sessions ~	Friday, April 24 Lensic Theater
8:00 - 8:30 Breakfast 8:30 - 8:45 POD in classrooms	8:00 - 8:30 Breakfast in Dance Circle 8:15 - 8:40 POD in Dance Circle*	8:00 - 8:30 breakfast in Atrium (8:00 - 8:20 bus arrival)
8:45 - 10:00 Session 1	8:40 - 9:50 Sessions 5a + 5b	8:15 - 8:40 POD* 8:40 Seating w/POD
10:00-10:15 Break	9:50 - 10:45 Games + Snacks in Dance Circle	8:40 - 10:10 Session 7
10:15 - 11:30 Session 2	10:45 - 12:00 Sessions 6a + 6b	10:10 - 10:30 Break + Snack
11:30 - 12:15 Lunch	~	10:30 - 12:05 Session 8
12:15 - 1:30 Session 3	~	~
1:30 Bus pick-up and full dismissal	11:55 Bus pick-up (lunch available) 12:00 Full dismissal (lunch available)	12:00 Bus pick-up (lunch available) 12:05 Full dismissal (lunch available)

* See POD leader

Lunch served at school on Wednesday. Bag lunches available on Thursday and Friday

Wednesday, April 22
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Monte del Sol Charter School
Culinary Evening Tasting Session

Evening Session: Session 4

5:30–6:15 p.m. Tasting
 6:15–7:30 p.m. Presentations

POD LOCATIONS FOR CONCURRENT SESSIONS AT IAIA

The Auditorium (#5 on map)– Sessions 5a + 6a

Auditorium Pods: Brenna, Carla, David E. (12), Dayni, Jim, Juan Carlos, Kristina, Liz,
Myoko, Raul, Tom, Udell, Wendy, Will

The Commons (upstairs) (#4 on map) – Sessions 5b + 6b

Commons Pods: Alle, Ben W (11), David D (9), Enrique, Erick, Jacob, John, Margarita,
McKenna, Sarah, Simon M (12), Todd



**Mentor Appreciation
Evening 2026**

**Thank you Mentors
Performers
Volunteers
and Food Donors**



Wednesday, April 22 • Monte Gathering Space

Breakfast 8:00 - 8:30 • POD in classrooms: 8:30 - 8:45

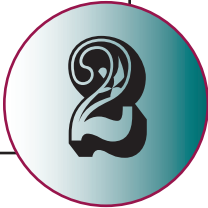
Session One: 8:45 - 10:00 • Moderator: Erika

Carla Veleta	Radiology	Amanda Valdez
Aiden Lopez	Sports Physical Therapy	Dillon Alam
Camila Erives	Nursing	Yeimy Antillon
Rurabi Cerda	Robotics Engineering	Alan Stanton & Edwin Ochoa
Joshua Langwell	City Planning	Erick Aune
Julian Brook-Sena	Excavation/Earth Moving	Tim Brown
Diana Sanchez	Immigration Law	Tess Wilkes
Hailey Benavidez	Photography	Kitty Leaken



Session Two: 10:15 - 11:30 • Moderator: Margarita

Amara Harcharik	Guitar	Mikey Baker
Erick Gallegos	Manga Art	Andrea Bruno
Niza Cipatly Valadez	Ceramics	Joan Henderson
Damien Crawford	Sewing	Patricia Wagner
Marisol Armendariz	Veterinary	Dr. Suzy Jones
Lorenne Felix	Taxidermy	Tania Pacheco
Emmanuel (Chango) Caraveo	Historical Martial Metallurgy	Dave Baskett
Yarahy Portillo	Auto Detailing Business	Marco Reyes



Special Session Nine TBD

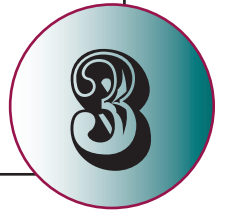
Mannie Iturralde	Art	Brian Romereau
Sierra Ybarra	Early Childhood Education	Wade Lee

Wednesday, April 22 • Monte Gathering Space

Lunch 11:30 - 12:15

Session Three: 12:15 - 1:30 • Moderator: Todd

Adam Lopez	Music Production	Ry Mohon
Donicio Hernandez	Music Production	Ry Mohon
Paul Roybal	Music Production	Ry Mohon
Isaac Aragon	Computer Game Development	Sven Redsun
Jonah Girdner	Computer Game Development	Sven Redsun
Kristopher Bautista	Guitar Performance	Vanessa Rivera
Ubaldo Castillo	Skateboarding & Skateboard Culture	Damon Archuletta
Adrian Ibarra	Fly Fishing	McKenna Worden
Anthony Vigil	Fly Fishing	McKenna Worden
Dominic Montoya	Fly Fishing	McKenna Worden



“I am happy to find how much I enjoy cooking and how natural it feels to me. The most important thing I’ve learned so far in the kitchen is to be patient.”— Monte del Sol Protégé



I appreciate the small moments that we spend together! The silly ones like when we were working with chocolate and of course have to try it! And the serious ones when we have to look for different solutions for when we are missing ingredients, and even the ones when we talk about how we’ve spent our week.
— Monte del Sol Protégé



“You have really helped me learn the true meaning of cooking a meal for others and myself. The cooking is meaningful because of the friends and conversations we have when we are having this amazing experience.... So thank you for allowing me to cook to my fullest potential. I can now cook up meals for myself, my family, and my friends.” — Monte del Sol Protégé



Wednesday, April 22 • Monte Gathering Space

A TASTE OF MONTE: Culinary Evening Session

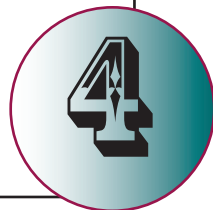
Note: This is an evening session and only required for culinary protégés

5:30 pm – 6:15 pm Enjoy delicious samples

6:15 pm – 7:30 pm Protégé presentations

Session Four: 5:30-7:30 • Moderator: Udell

Antonio Trujillo III	Culinary Arts	Carmen Rodriguez
Doran Johansen	Culinary Arts	Carmen Rodriguez
Ismael Avila	Culinary Arts	Carmen Rodriguez
Areidy Gonzalez	Cake Decoration	Yesika Nuñez
Jared Guevara Perez	Culinary Arts	Sarah Wagner
Leonardo Morales	Culinary Arts	Keegan Crumpacker
Manraj Singh	Culinary Arts	Keegan Crumpacker
Raul Ledezma	Culinary Arts	Sarah Wagner
Adriana Ramos	Culinary Arts	Oliver LaParra
Alexxa Avalos-Terrazas	Baking	Peyton Young
Joziah Romero	Baking	Peyton Young
Loralei Falk	Baking	Peyton Young
Marisol Hall	Baking	Peyton Young
Adilene Gutierrez	Pastry Arts	Marlene Rodriguez Franco
Christophe Rodriguez	Culinary Arts	Ignacio Dominguez
Miguel Molina	Culinary Arts	Ignacio Dominguez
Nico Lucero	Culinary Arts	Ignacio Dominguez
Walter Tuchan	Culinary Arts	Ignacio Dominguez



Thursday, April 23 • IAIA - Auditorium

Breakfast 8:00 - 8:30 • Pod: 8:15 - 8:40

Meet your Pod leader in the "Dance Circle" (the grass behind the Auditorium)

Session Five A: 8:40 - 9:50 • Moderator: Chela

Alexandra Otero	CU Nursing	Michelle Bustamente
Citlaly Guerrero	Makeup Art	Ambra Baca
Felicia Chavez	Hair & Makeup Art	Gina Montoya
Amrit Bhandal	Animal Care	Toni Garcia
Taylor Hewlett	Animal Care	Toni Garcia
Michael Gonzales	Motorcycle Mechanics	Jake Herzenberg
Adriel Garcia	Auto Mechanics	Beto Lagunas
Keshav Alumolu	Fitness & Nutrition	Abie Montoya
Manuel Urioste	Fitness & Nutrition	Abie Montoya



Games + Snacks in the Dance Circle 9:50 - 10:45

Session Six A: 10:45 - 12:00 • Moderator: Kristina

Gael Saldivar	Military Career Exploration	Michael Granado (Mr. G)
Daniela Bencomo	Military Career Exploration	Michael Granado (Mr. G)
Joe Armijo	Basketball Conditioning	Raul Garcia
Anezza Avalos	Sports Psychology	Michelle Velarde
Bella De La Torre	Early Childhood Education	Wade Lee
Allison Rojero	Animal Care	Melanie Montoya
Daniella Herrera	Animal Care	Melanie Montoya



Auditorium Pods: Brenna, Carla, David E. (12), Dayni, Jim, Juan Carlos, Kristina, Liz, Myoko, Raul, Tom, Udell, Wendy, Will

Thursday, April 23 • IAIA - Commons

Breakfast 8:00 - 8:30 • Pod: 8:15 - 8:40

Meet your Pod leader in the “Dance Circle” (the grass behind the Auditorium)

Session Five B: 8:40 - 9:50 • Moderator: Joey

Lilo Moya	Painting & Drawing	Dienke Nauta
Isaac Rojero	Landscaping	Jose Dominguez
Evrett Laemmle-Erwin	Mural Painting	John Paul Granillo
Victor Montoya	Mural Painting	John Paul Granillo
Liam Walson	Photography	Carla Evans
Daniela Bencomo	Community Service	Monica Gonzales
Nolyn Ortiz	Architecture	Miguel Da Silva
Alyssa Gonzales	Football	Joey Butler



Games + Snacks in the Dance Circle 9:50 - 10:45

Session Six B: 10:45 - 12:00 • Moderator: David D.

Jordyn James	Photography	Gail MacQuesten
Andrew Hurtado	Animal Care	Anthony Wasowicz
Juancarlos Hernandez	Animal Care	Anthony Wasowicz
Luis Murga	Animal Care	Anthony Wasowicz
Tucker Rhoades	Philosophy & Theology	John Przyborowski
Jyles Burns	Writing	Shawn Patrick Boyd
Leslee Briceño-Roybal	Hairstyling	Alexis Bove



Commons Pods: Alle, Ben W (11), David D (9), Enrique, Erick, Jacob, John, Margarita, McKenna, Sarah, Simon M (12), Todd

Friday, April 24 • Lensic Theater

Breakfast in Atrium: 8:00 - 8:30 • Seating w/ POD 8:40

Session Seven: 8:40 - 10:10 • Moderator: John

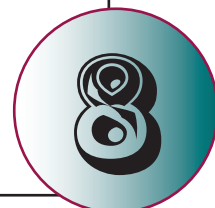
Ayden Downing	Elementary School Counseling	Susha Pratt
Samuel Walling	Philosophy & Writing	Criss Jay
Freddy Lozoya	Trumpet	Daniel Pearlman
Amrit Bhandal	Crochet Garments	Margarita Blanco
Taylor Hewlett	Crochet Garments	Margarita Blanco
Isayah Everage	Screenwriting	Tara Tovarek
Quinn Hanus	Blacksmithing	Enrique Otero
Alanzo Baca	Technical Theater	Seneca Phillips-McGraw
Jacob Sullivan	Chess	Mark Galassi



Snacks in Atrium: 10:10 - 10:30

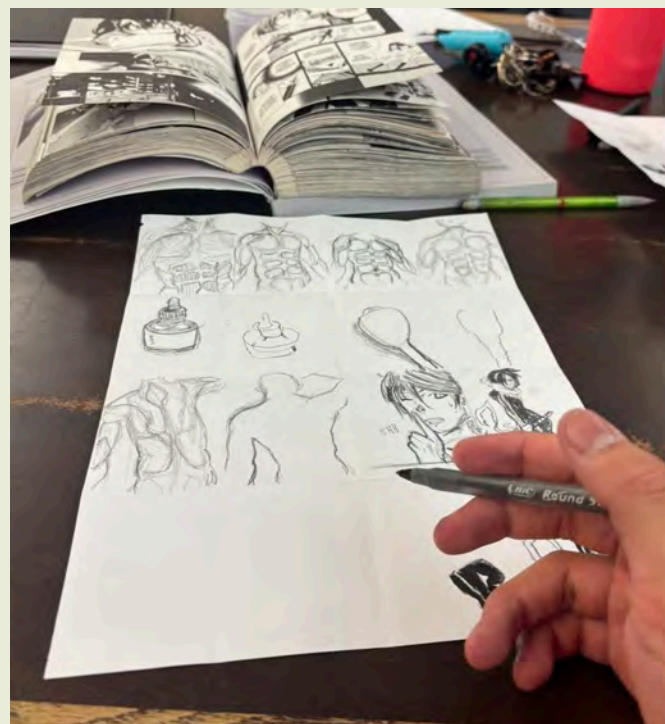
Session Eight: 10:30 - 12:05 • Moderator: Alle

Jimmie Fernando Barba	Saxophone	Jerry Weimer
Aime Hernandez	Cosmetology	Marisol Chavez
Destany Gonzalez	Cosmetology	Marisol Chavez
Raquel Lerma	Cosmetology	Marisol Chavez
Marcos Urioste	Piano	Charly Drobeck
Alana Rivera	Kenpo 5.0/Jiu Jitsu	Tony Potter
Diego Valladares	Piano	Bob Fox
Mari Archuleta	Makeup & Hair for Film & TV	Katie Douthit
Ryan Crayne	Piano	Joseph Salack
Kimberly Guevara Perez	Fine Arts	Lisa Flynn
Ariella Miller	Piano	Scott Jarrett





Mentorship compared to school isn't so different. Both school and mentorship take responsibility like turning in assignments on time and arriving on time as well. Also communicating with your teachers and mentors is very important, so turns out mentorship and school aren't that different." – Monte del Sol Protégé



"Your trust, patience and guidance have given me the opportunity to explore my creativity and abilities. Working with clay has been an incredible grounding, and meaningful journey of discovery, learning, and calmness so far. Thank you for helping ignite my curiosity and passion for this art." – Monte del Sol Protégé



**“It was really moving to be quite honest, and it also got me excited to do my own mentorships.”
— Monte del Sol Student**



“I chose this mentorship because I’ve always wanted to play football and have always been told that I couldn’t because I am a girl. Your belief in me has changed my perspective because I had given up on trying to play since I was always told I could never do it. Now I believe I can do it.”— Monte del Sol Protégé



“From this mentorship, my learning has changed and grown because I am getting a sense of what I might be doing for most of my life. You have served as an influence to me because I have never met an architect and it’s really cool to see what you do. I really value the drawing and tracing in this mentorship because I have loved drawing my whole life. I’m glad I can incorporate that into this mentorship.”— Monte del Sol Protégé



“I am happy I chose this mentorship because I get to do what I love. Helping cats get a home they deserve.... I have learned that putting yourself out there and asking questions is how to learn in a field you have no idea how to work in.” — Monte del Sol Protégé



We Celebrate Our 2026 OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD RECIPIENTS



Beto Lagunas

"Gracias, escuela Monte del Sol, por la oportunidad de ser mentor de sus estudiantes. Es un placer trabajar con jóvenes tan talentosos y apasionados. Me recuerda cuando yo era un joven con sueños y aspiraciones, y saber que puedo hacer una diferencia en su camino es un honor. Gracias por permitirme ser parte de su crecimiento y desarrollo. ¡Estoy emocionado de ver lo que el futuro les depara!"



John Przyborowski

"I've been a mentor five times and every single time I've gotten more (I think) out of it than my protégés. It's truly a gift to be able to share your passions and interests with someone. I love being a Monte del Sol Mentor!"

Beto Lagunas
Auto Mechanics +
Business

John Przyborowski
Philosophy & Bass
Guitar

Katie Douthit
Makeup & Hair for
Film & Television

Peyton Young
Baking

DID YOU KNOW?

IN A TYPICAL YEAR,
OUR MENTORS
DONATE ABOUT
3,000 – 5,000
HOURS OF
THEIR TIME.

**THANK YOU,
MENTORS!**



Katie Douthit

"I became a mentor in 2005 when my son Jesse Douthit started attending Monte del Sol. They asked for help so I volunteered. Right away I felt I may be getting more out of it than the protégé! I learn so much from them. I have continued to mentor every year almost since then. I still feel like I owe the school for working with my son, and I continue to get a lot of joy and learn myself from the new protégé each year!"



Peyton Young

"Each week, we gather to bake something delicious, sharing the process and what we create as a group. My goal is for the students to have a foundation, and to develop the confidence to continue baking independently. Seeing their progress and pride in their creations is incredibly fulfilling."

WHO ARE OUR MENTORS?

ABIE MONTOYA has been the owner and trainer of AB's Exclusive Fitness for over 22 years. He loves sharing his passion for fitness, bodybuilding and nutrition.

ALAN STANTON is the President and cofounder of Southwest Sciences, Inc. since 1986, a Santa Fe company that conducts research and development in atmospheric and environmental sciences, combustion, and laser and optical science. As a practicing scientist, a special interest of his is figuring out ways to make science interesting and engaging for students. Besides doing science, Alan enjoys cheering the Dragons (and photographing them in action), the Lobos, and the Isotopes, as well as being outdoors in the Southern Rockies.

ALEXIS BOVE has 29 years of experience as a professional hairstylist and 20 years as a salon owner. She is passionate about cultivating a calm, creative environment that inspires curiosity and enhances the client experience. Her commitment to excellence is reflected in the loyalty of her team—one stylist has been with her since day one, another for 13 years, and a third for 10 years. She shares: "I take great pride in mentoring the next generation of hairstylists, sharing industry knowledge, and helping young talent develop their skills and confidence in the beauty industry."

AMANDA VALDEZ is the manager at X-Ray Associates of Santa Fe, bringing many years of experience in the field. She is passionate about introducing her protégé to all the modalities offered at the imaging center and enjoys sharing her knowledge and expertise with others.

AMBRA BACA: With over 20 years of professional makeup experience, Ambra brings artistry and

passion to every client she serves. Her journey began while studying theatre at the University of New Mexico, where she discovered the transformative power of makeup. After refining her skills at MAC Cosmetics, she built an impressive career spanning weddings, international fashion shows, and editorial work, with features in Rocky Mountain Bride, Vogue, and Vanity Fair. Ambra feels honored to collaborate with her clients, enhancing their natural beauty, celebrating their unique features, and helping them feel confident. She treasures time with her family and enjoys running, hiking, and giving back through programs like Girls on the Run, empowering young girls to embrace confidence and self-love. She is also committed to addressing important community issues. Looking ahead, Ambra lives by Mahatma Gandhi's words: "Be the change you want to see in the world."

ANDREA BRUNO is a visual artist who spent her adolescence publishing online comics. Raised in Santa Fe, she has received formal training in visual arts from New Mexico School for the Arts and Sciences, University of Michigan STAMPS, and the School of Visual Arts in New York City. While currently working at Los Alamos National Lab and pursuing a PhD in Economics, she considers her practice in visual arts to be a cornerstone of a diverse life with many passions.

ANTHONY WASOWICZ holds a master's degree in Fisheries Biology and began his career as a field biologist working across the western U.S. with state, federal, and private organizations, primarily focused on endangered species. He later spent 25 years in Sonoma County, California, where he became a winemaker and grape grower, producing high-quality wines while emphasizing sustainable practices. During this time, he also founded

"This experience has made me realize that nursing isn't just about skills and knowledge but about courage.... There was a time when a patient's family had to make a hard decision while being scared. I got to watch you take the time and sit with them and answer all the questions they had while explaining what the medications were doing to their loved one. You're truly amazing for having the courage to do this and take care of someone until their last moment." — Monte del Sol Protégé

“The entire program is one of the most important aspects of the school. The organizers, mentors and students all inspired me.” – Monte del Sol Teacher

an organic vegetable farm and raised honeybees, sheep, pigs, and chickens. In his spare time, he wrote songs, sang, played guitar in a rock band, and authored a book about his father, a WWII bomber pilot, *Ask Your Father*. He moved to Santa Fe over three years ago, began volunteering at the Santa Fe Animal Shelter as a dog walker, and now serves as Volunteer Coordinator.

BETO LAGUNAS started his shop, Beto's Auto Repair, really small. It began when he was 14 years old and a student as well as an assistant at a mechanic shop. As a kid, he always loved getting his hands involved and understanding the mechanism of how things work. He was always the one at the house who would fix something when it broke. Now, after 23 years of experience, Beto's Auto Repair has been going strong for 17 years. Alberto says: “What motivates me to keep going, is the joy and happiness my customers feel coming out of the shop with their fixed vehicles.”

BOB FOX, Pianist/Composer, was born in Buffalo, NY. He has traveled extensively but has made his home in Santa Fe with his wife Nancy for the past 31 years. He holds degrees in Jazz Piano Performance from the Berklee School of Music and the University of Miami. He has appeared with Stanley Turrentine, Eddie Daniels, James Moody, Dave Stryker, and many others, and is a cofounder, with John Trentacosta, of the quintet Straight Up. He is a life member of BMI and AFofM, local 161-710.

BRIAN ROMEREAU is a multidisciplinary artist from the Pueblo of Pojoaque. He brings a unique

perspective to his work, shaped by years of experience in traditional weaving and a lifelong immersion in Pueblo pottery traditions. Brian skillfully blends these influences, adding his own distinctive approach to both weaving and ceramic design. His creations reflect and honor the rich cultural heritage that continues to inspire his innovative artistic practice. Brian is happy to be Mannie's mentor for his art exploration mentorship.

CARLA EVANS' professional background is in Deaf Education, English as a Second Language, and Special Education. She has also pursued freelance portrait photography since receiving her first camera as a teenager. Today, she enjoys the opportunity to combine her interests and skills to students as the photography teacher at Monte del Sol. Originally from Oklahoma, Carla moved to Santa Fe to be closer to her parents. She is the proud mother of three nearly grown children and values the time she spends with her family. Carla also loves to travel and hopes to add many more stamps to her passport in the coming years.

CHEF CARMEN RODRIGUEZ'S journey began in Chicago, Illinois, where his passion for food was sparked at just 13 years old. Starting as a dishwasher, he saw not a chore but an opportunity. Determined to grow, he studied every movement in the kitchen, absorbing knowledge and sharpening his work ethic. His dedication caught the attention of a chef mentor who recognized his potential and gave him a chance on the hot line. Through perseverance and skill, Carmen earned an apprenticeship at the prestigious Ritz-Carlton Water Tower





— a defining moment that elevated his culinary path and deepened his commitment to excellence. At 18, driven by service and discipline, Carmen enlisted in the United States Air Force. As a Security Police Officer, he served with honor in roles demanding resilience and leadership. From kitchen heat to military rigor, Chef Carmen Rodriguez's story reflects grit, growth, and unwavering determination grounded in hard work, humility, and heart.

CHARLY DROBECK has lived, played music, written poems, walked the mountains, grown some food, and enjoyed the beauty of life in NM since 1985. As a flutist she played for many years with Santa Fe Pro Musica under her mentor, Carol Redman, and with numerous other musicians in and around Santa Fe. She has leaned into improvisation for the past ten years, and has also enjoyed learning about West African drumming and music with her teachers here. She is gratefully married to her partner Sam, and madly in love with her current pooch, Pooka.

CRISS JAY is a pianist and piano teacher in classical, popular, and improvisational forms. He was classically trained but also ventured widely into jazz, rock and popular music during his years in LA. He's also contributed reviews in music, visual art, film and architecture to various publications and is a writer and a poet. He has been delighted to mentor Monte del Sol protégés in piano, writing and philosophy.

DAMON ARCHULETTA is the owner and operator of Initiate Skateboarding, founded in 2013, and has

served as a cornerstone of skateboard culture in Santa Fe. Initiate designs and produces its own line of skateboard hard goods and apparel, while also hosting community skate jams and events. Damon has also played a key role in the development of the GCCC Skate Park, contributing to local skateboarding infrastructure and youth engagement efforts.

DAN PEARLMAN is a jazz trumpet and cornet player who plays regularly around New Mexico with several different bands. After beginning with classical music, studying French horn and composition at the Oberlin Conservatory, he fell in love with jazz and switched to the trumpet. He is also a published street photographer.

DAVID BASKETT has been a student of history and martial arts since childhood. In high school, he got the opportunity to learn blacksmithing at his school's forge and received further training at a vocational school in Finland. Learning to forge the tools and weapons of ages past fired up his passion, and he's happy to share this knowledge with younger generations.

DIENKE NAUTA graduated as a Studio Artist in 1995, from the Art Academy Minerva in Groningen, the Netherlands. Her art is part of many private collections. Her work can be seen at www.dienkenauta.com. She moved to New Mexico from the Netherlands in 2007 after she was granted an Artist-in-Residency with the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos. In 2018 she became an active

Over the past two years You have guided me, teaching me everything from the basics of a C major scale up to improvisation and musical expression, and I couldn't be more grateful. You not only taught me music theory, but you also helped me gain confidence and made me believe in myself. As my first music teacher, you have been the biggest influence in my life yet.— Monte del Sol Protégé

member with the Santa Fe Society of Artists and she will be showing with them from March until October 2026 (www.santafesocietyofartists.com)

DILLON ALAM was born and raised in Houston, Texas. His interests include hiking, shooting, and gaming. Dillon played football for ten years, an experience that helped shape his dedication to athlete care and performance. Driven by a passion for sports medicine, he pursued a career in the field and currently serves as the Head Athletic Trainer at Christus St. Vincent. He is passionate about mentoring the next generation of athletic trainers and believes there is a strong need for more compassionate, skilled professionals in sports medicine.

EDWIN OCHOA is an alumnus of Monte del Sol. Edwin's journey into engineering began with a foundational robotics mentorship under Dr. Alan Stanton. Since then, Edwin has turned that early spark into a global career, working with cutting-edge robotics companies across New Mexico, France, and Germany. While his professional path has taken him around the world, Edwin remains deeply committed to the community that shaped him. He is a passionate advocate for the next generation of ambitious engineers, believing that technical skill must be paired with dedicated mentorship. Having experienced firsthand the value of a strong role model, Edwin strives to mentor young talent not just in their technical passions, but in navigating the broader challenges of life and career. "Without the Mentorship Program I may not have realized, let alone achieved my dreams, thank you Alan."

ENRIQUE GUERRERO has had a distinguished culinary career at some of the finest restaurants. He came to Santa Fe to become executive chef of La

Casa Sena and was also at La Mancha at the Galisteo Inn and O Eating House at Pojoaque Pueblo, among others. In 2013 he launched his award-winning food truck, Bang Bite Filling Station in downtown Santa Fe.

ENRIQUE OTERO has been a teacher for over 20 years in private and public settings. This is his third year at Monte Del Sol where he is happy teaching global studies, blacksmithing and stone carving.

ERICK J. AUNE, FAICP is a Transportation and Urban Planner employed with the Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization as the MPO Officer. He is inspired by the impacts of roadway design on all elements of the community and is dedicated to supporting innovative design that improves safety and livability for all users of our roadways. Erick graduated from Michigan State University with a M.S. in Natural Resource and has practiced land use and transportation planning in the Southwest since 1996, and began his career with AmeriCorps Program in Aztec, NM. He has served as Planning Director for Aztec, NM and La Plata County, CO and worked with and for the New Mexico MainStreet Program his entire career.

GAIL MACQUESTEN is an avid amateur photographer. She enjoys traveling around New Mexico and the other four corners states in search of photo opportunities.

GINA MONTROYA: With over 15 years of experience, Gina is a freelance hair and makeup artist passionate about empowering others and helping brides feel beautiful, confident, and calm on their special day. She also brings more than eight years of nonprofit experience, allowing her to connect deeply with clients and make a meaningful impact. Holding a BFA



“You have shown me what a musician is and are a role model I can be proud of having. I chose piano because I simply loved music, but I didn’t think I would also meet a new friend and experience the true musician lifestyle, and for that I thank you” – Monte del Sol Protégé

in Fashion Design and Marketing, Gina blends her design background with her love for beauty. Certified in makeup artistry in Dallas, TX, and self-taught in hair-styling, she has become a sought-after bridal artist. Her work has been featured in Rocky Mountain Bride, Vogue, and Vanity Fair, and includes fashion shows, editorial shoots, and countless weddings. Gina gives back by mentoring high school students pursuing hair and makeup careers and through years of nonprofit work. Outside of work, she enjoys running, hiking, yoga, and spending time with her two sons. Her passion and dedication shine through in all she does.

IGNACIO DOMINGUEZ is a dedicated public safety professional and culinary entrepreneur with over 16 years of service in emergency management and fire service support. Throughout his career, he has focused on strengthening community safety, coordinating emergency response efforts, and supporting the mission of fire and emergency services. Alongside his public safety work, Ignacio has maintained a lifelong passion for food. He began working professionally in kitchens at just 14 years old, developing the culinary skills and work ethic that would later lead him to launch his own ventures. Today, he owns and operates a catering service and a food cart business, blending creativity, hospitality, and local flavor into everything he serves. Whether supporting community safety or serving great food, Ignacio is committed to hard work, service, and bringing people together.

JAKE HERZENBERG is the owner of Southwest Motorsport Resource (SMR) in Santa Fe. He

enjoys sharing his skills and passion for motorcycles with others.

JENNIFER SANCHEZ learned American Sign Language as a young teen to interpret church services for deaf members. This early exposure molded her life goals and continues to be an integral part of her. Jennifer holds degrees in ASL interpreting, Special Education, Secondary Language Arts and Administration. She worked in the medical field as an educational interpreter while acquiring her degrees. Upon completion, she spent 20 years as an educator/administrator for grades 8-12 within both public and private sectors. She enjoys her work as Care Coordinator Supervisor for Presbyterian Health Plan. As a former Assistant Head Learner of Monte del Sol, Jennifer continues to hold a love for its students, faculty and staff and finds it rewarding to support the development of future leaders in our community.

JERRY WEIMER has been a part of the Santa Fe music scene since 2001. An accomplished woodwind player, he performs regularly with many local groups, including Opera West, Opus OP, NDI New Mexico, Nacha Mendez, Pollo Frito, and more. He began teaching while pursuing a BFA in Music Performance and Composition at the College of Santa Fe. Over the past 20 years, both in New Mexico and New York City, Jerry has coached thousands of young musicians and helped them to find their unique voice. He currently supports a number of middle and high school band programs in the Santa Fe area.





JOAN HENDERSON was once upon a time a math and science teacher at Monte del Sol, for 16 years. She has a BFA from School of Visual Arts in NYC. These days she enjoys teaching, mentoring, and playing with clay. She also enjoys participating in a goat coop, skiing, hiking, swimming, reading, baking sourdough bread, checking out art galleries and local music shows, traveling, camping, and more. Joan enjoyed mentoring her very engaged protégé this year!

JOEY BUTLER teaches Math, PE, and Special Services at Monte del Sol. He is the defensive coordinator coach and the boys and girls assistant track coach at St. Michael's High. His teams have won one football State Championship and six State Track and Field Championships. He and his wife Renee have three beautiful children. He has also mentored students in track and fitness.

JOHN PAUL GRANILLO is a renowned Chicano artist whose work graces galleries, museums, and public spaces in Santa Fe. He co-founded the Alas de Agua Art Collective and Full Circle Farm, supporting underprivileged youth. Currently Chief of Operations at Santa Fe Youthworks, his impact as a teaching artist and nonprofit board member reflects his deep commitment to art and community healing.

JOHN PRZYBOROWSKI joined the MDS faculty in 2006 after leaving a career in Silicon Valley. He was also a professional, touring musician for a number

of years and has performed throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe. He received his B.A. in English Literature from San Francisco State University and his M.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John's College right here in Santa Fe. He has served (twice!) as Faculty Representative for Monte del Sol's Governing Board and has mentored several students. He is proud to have spent a summer in Oaxaca studying Spanish with the L.I.S.T.O. program and is currently finishing his TESOL certification. Currently, John teaches 8th, 11th, and 12th grade English, as well as Health. When he's not teaching, he enjoys the outdoors, cooking, tennis, and napping.

JOSE DOMINGUEZ has been a landscaper for many years, and creates beautiful stone paths. He has long-time clients whose gardens he maintains every summer. He appreciates having a student also interested in these things that he can teach and share his expertise with.

JOSEPH SALACK is a pianist and bass player. This is his 8th year as a mentor at Monte del Sol. He teaches private piano, is the Music Director at the Everyday Center for Spiritual Living and plays with Bhakti (kirtan), as well as the occasional jazz gig.

KATIE DOUTHIT has been a licensed hair and makeup artist since 1982. She trained at the Elegance Academy of Professional Make-Up in Los Angeles. Katie has worked in numerous films, television productions, commercials and print ads.

“You have not only taught me important skills I will need but also showed me how important it is to be patient, and that some clients will need little more time of explaining what’s happening. That I will need to put work in and practice, keep going when I am unsure, trust the process, and believe in myself. — Monte del Sol Protégé

“Presenting in front of the whole school pushes students out of their comfort zone in a good way. The expectations are high, the community buys into its importance and the result is that we see something new from the presenters that does not come out in normal class settings.” – Monte del Sol Teacher

Ms. Douthit implemented and wrote the curriculum for the first New Mexico film-training program. She has mentored 34 protégés!

KEEGAN CRUMPACKER is an educator with the nonprofit Cooking with Kids, and runs Crumpacker Bakery and Café with his mother Amy Fagan. They are known for their pies and quiches which they also sell at the Santa Fe Farmer’s Market.

KITTY LEAKEN is a photographer and editor of photography for projects that bring together elements of history and the art, landscape and cultures of New Mexico. Kitty edited and contributed the photography for *Granddaughters of the Clay: A Family Legacy of Pueblo Pottery*. She started as a photojournalist for Santa Fe’s newspapers a long time ago.

LISA FLYNN is an artist who lives and works in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She works in a variety of media and creates expressive paintings and drawings ranging from figurative to abstract using watercolor, pastel, oil, acrylics, and mixed media. She is also the owner of Milagro Design and specializes in hand drawn quick, colorful sketches and illustrations. She has previously taught plein air sketching at the Santa Fe Community College and currently offers private workshops to individuals and groups. She is an award-winning member of the Plein Air Painters of New Mexico and has traveled extensively, always accompanied by her sketchbook and watercolors.

MARCO REYES GARCIA is the owner of Bryan’s Auto Detail, a full-service auto detailing company located in Santa Fe that specializes in top to bottom interior and exterior restoration (auto/marine/RV), window tinting, wrapping, and spray bed liner. Marco began working in auto detailing 32 years ago and started Bryan’s Auto Detail in 2002. When not engulfed in Bryan’s Auto Detail, Marco enjoys cycling and hiking.

MARGARITA BLANCO is a dedicated 8th grade Humanities teacher at Monte del Sol, where she inspires her students with a passion for learning and creativity. As an alumna of the school, she brings a unique perspective to the classroom, blending academic excellence with a deep appreciation for the arts. Outside of teaching, Margarita has a vibrant creative side, exploring her love for music, crocheting, and hosting events that bring people together. Her diverse talents and enthusiastic approach to both teaching and personal interests make her a beloved figure in her community.

MARIO GARCIA is the Program Director at the Santa Fe Raptor Center. Mario is a Northern New Mexico native who grew up on a small family farm and orchard alongside the Rio Grande. Guided by his naturalist parents, and love for wildlife, he knew early on that he wanted to be an advocate for healthy ecosystems. Mario received a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Hawaii in Hilo. He has worked with the Santa Fe Raptor Center



since 2019, first as a volunteer, now as the director of programs. He believes that educating, especially the next generation of earth stewards, is an essential component to the work done at SFRC.

MARISOL CHAVEZ is the owner of MCM Contouring, LLC, in Albuquerque offering body contouring and esthetician services. She is excited to share her knowledge and skills of cosmetology with three protégés this year.

MARK GALASSI is an astrophysicist and computer scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He has worked on the HETE, HETE-2 and Swift satellite missions, as well as in Los Alamos's nuclear non-proliferation effort and other areas of space physics. Passionate about free/open-source software, he has contributed to the free software movement since its inception, including designing and leading the implementation of the GNU Scientific Library. Raised in Italy studying classics, Mark got his undergraduate degree in Physics from Reed College (1987), and his PhD in mathematical and computational physics from Stony Brook University (1992). He has been in Los Alamos ever since. Much of his time is spent in outreach, teaching research technique to students around the world through the Institute for Computing in Research, which he cofounded.

MARLENE RODRIGUEZ FRANCO is the owner and pastry chef behind Blossom & Glaze Sweet Confections. She loves creating new recipes and exploring unique flavor combinations, often blending traditional French pastry techniques with New Mexican inspirations. When she's not baking or developing desserts, she enjoys spending time with her children and fiancé, as well as relaxing with her two French bulldogs and Boston terrier.

MAXWELL COHN was born and raised in Vermont by maker-educator parents, and has followed a hands-on creative path rooted in curiosity and craft. After studying film in Brooklyn, he shifted into fabrication work for art festivals and other large-scale events, eventually landing in New Mexico with his wife Rebecca and joining the Meow Wolf Creative Studios team. With years of experience as a machinist and art builder, he's recently returned to his love of teaching—helping others develop skills, confidence, and the belief that they can make things that matter.

MCKENNA WORDEN teaches high school science at Monte del Sol. She attended the University of Wyoming, where she earned two Bachelor of Science degrees—one in Geology and the other in Environmental Systems Science. After graduating, she spent several seasons in Montana working as a Wildland Firefighter. McKenna loves spending time outdoors, especially fly fishing, and also enjoys backpacking and mountain biking. At home, she spends much of her time knitting and working on other crafts. She is a big fan of movies—particularly horror. McKenna also enjoys sports of all kinds, with the NFL's Buffalo Bills as her favorite professional team.

MELANIE MONTOYA has dedicated over three decades to working with nonprofit programs, currently serving as the Volunteer Coordinator for Felines & Friends New Mexico. F & F is committed to rescuing and re-homing homeless cats in need of a second chance. She strongly advocates for supporting and assisting nonprofit organizations that are making a positive impact on the community and introducing youth to valuable nonprofit programs that contribute to the betterment of society.

“Tu comida tiene el poder de transformar un día ordinario en una ocasión especial. Es como si cada plato viniera acompañado de una dosis de amor y esmero, algo que valoro inmensamente. Has convertido la cocina en un lugar de alegría para mí. Las conversaciones alrededor de la mesa, los aromas mientras preparamos la comida, la sensación de probar algo nuevo o de disfrutar de un plato: todo ello forma parte de los momentos que me enseñan cosas nuevas.”— Monte del Sol Protégé



MICHAEL GRANADO - MR. G is the Dean of Students and Security Officer on campus. He has over three decades of educational experience and has been an administrator for over 20 years. He also is a Combat Veteran with extensive security and protection experience. He has a Bachelors in Criminal Justice and a Masters in Education and Administrative Leadership. He is currently married to his wife Borislava Granado who is the Computer Science teacher at Salazar Elementary and has one daughter living with him named Dora Granado who attends the Santa Fe Community College here in Santa Fe, NM.

MICHELLE BUSTAMANTE is an ICU nurse at Christus Medical Center. She enjoys sharing her knowledge and skills about nursing with the next generation.

MICHELLE VELARDE is the Girls' Head Basketball Coach at Monte del Sol. She is sharing her skills and knowledge in sports and mental health with her protégé this year.

MIGUEL DA SILVA (da Silva Architecture, Inc. 1991) has consulted on a wide variety of institutional, commercial and residential projects, including historic projects involving research, documentation, building analysis, building restoration, and construction administration. As a Certified Passive House Consultant (2012) Miguel applies energy based performance standards and passive house principles to state of the art construction techniques while incorporating regional sensibilities and economical appropriateness to ensure excellence and integrity. Miguel received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Texas at Austin, and his Master of Architecture from Rice University in 1991. Born in France and

raised in Italy until the age 12, Mr. da Silva is fluent in English and Italian, and conversant in French and Spanish. He enjoys working with Monte del Sol students!

MIKEY BAKER grew up in Santa Fe and moved to New York to study, and later teach, music. He returned to New Mexico in the early 90's, then toured the country for the latter half of that decade with a local original band. Since 2000 or so he's been deeply involved in Santa Fe's music community, teaching guitar, acting as musical director for theatrical productions, playing in numerous local bands, doing session work, producing music festivals, and running a performance venue. He currently teaches private lessons at his home studio and through The Curious Guitarist Studio online.

MONICA GONZALES was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She has an associate's degree in business administration and accounting, but her true passion in working to support her community came after the birth of her first daughter, Sofia. She found herself struggling with post-partum depression and she knew she wanted to help others not feel alone. Monica found herself in the nonprofit world where she has been able to connect all her talents and passions and has been able to fully grow and help other moms and parents into the journey of parenthood. When she is not working with Many Mothers, Monica's time is filled with Doula support and training as well as support at Gerard's House, a nonprofit grief center in Santa Fe. When she is not working Monica loves spending time with her daughter and husband, as well as family golfing and being outdoors, riding dirt trails in ATVs.

OLIVER LAPARRA was born in Chiapas, Mexico, where his family introduced him to cooking at a young age. He developed a strong passion for it, learning from relatives and gaining an appreciation for the traditions behind each dish. As he grew older, he worked in restaurants in Mexico, becoming deeply familiar with the bold, distinctive flavors of his home region. About six years ago, Oliver moved to the United States and pursued cooking professionally. He worked at several restaurants, including Del Charro, before joining Boxcar Restaurant, where he is now a sous-chef. Oliver hopes to attend culinary school, become a chef, and incorporate the flavors of Chiapas into his work.

PATRICIA WAGNER is the owner of Castro Alterations. She is delighted to share her knowledge and passion for clothing and sewing as a mentor.

PEYTON YOUNG grew up in the restaurant business in Philadelphia and graduated from Temple University. During this time, she met her husband, Harry, fell in love with Santa Fe and started Harry's Roadhouse 30 years ago. Peyton learned to bake from a great pie maker they hired as a consultant and from reading cookbooks and by trial and error. She enjoys sharing her knowledge of baking. In 2023, she and her husband sold the Roadhouse to a long-time employee. She is on the Board of CASA First, delivers dog supplies to homeless people with animals, studies Spanish and is learning to make pottery.

RAUL GARCIA is the Athletics Director at Monte del Sol and has coached youth and high school athletics for about 15 years, working with athletes from pee-wee through high school levels. Over the years, he has coached basketball, football, baseball, and soccer. He previously coached at Capital High School for four years and now serves as the Girls Soccer coach at Monte del Sol. In addition to coach-

ing, Raul teaches Computer Basics and spent about five years working in the IT field before joining the school. Raul is also a former athlete who competed in baseball, basketball, football, and wrestling during high school. Those experiences helped shape his lifelong passion for sports. Outside of work, Raul enjoys fishing, hunting, and spending time outdoors.

RY MOHON, a graduate of Berklee College of Music, has been playing guitar for 16 years, focusing primarily on fingerstyle guitar. His teaching approach centers around providing students with foundational skills—such as basic music theory, reading tablature, and various techniques—so they can confidently explore their own musical interests while remaining as a guide for them on their journeys. In addition to teaching guitar and ukulele at Queen Bee, he is also a reading tutor at Reading Quest and enjoys building guitars and amplifiers.

SARAH WRENN WEAVER, DOM is the Development Director at Cooking with Kids, where she is committed to supporting more than 8,000 children each year through hands-on nutrition and culinary education. She brings over two decades of experience in private practice as an acupuncturist and yoga teacher, helping individuals and families live healthier, more balanced lives. A longtime Santa Fe resident, Sarah lives with her husband and pets and is raising her teenage son. She finds joy in cooking nourishing food, sharing meals, and building community through the love of the healing and culinary arts.

SCOTT JARRETT'S musical career has included being song writer and recording artist on *Without Rhyme or Reason* (produced by Dave Grusin and Larry Rosen). He has produced multiple albums of his own, as well as for artists including Jennifer J. Holt, Steve Siekkinen, Mary Kleuh, Gazillion among others. He was the

“I originally chose this mentorship because I like animals, but over time my perspective changed. I now understand that working at an animal shelter isn’t just about loving animals, it’s also about responsibility, teamwork, and hard work. One thing that surprised me was how emotional the work could be. Playing with the animals was fun, but it was also hard seeing animals that were scared or sick.”
— Monte del Sol Protégé

“I am much more interested and skilled in the game of chess than ever. It’s hard to put into words how grateful I am to have such an amazing mentor, who takes time out of their day to teach me. This reality would’ve never been possible, or even conceivable, without the effort and encouragement you have put in.” – Monte del Sol Protégé

co-designer of 39th Street Music in New York City, a studio whose client list included the Ramones and Cindy Lauper, and he worked with diverse artists such as jazz great Dave Grusin (GRP) and country music’s Willie Nelson. He was the music director of the Broadway hit “The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas; and composer/music director for “Stephanie Hero,” a musical theatrical production written by Mark Medoff. He has taught at McNally Smith College of Music among others.

SENECA PHILLIPS-MCGRAW is the Stage Manager and Internship Supervisor at the Lensic Performing Arts Center. After graduating from West Virginia University with his BFA in Theatre Design and Technology, Seneca has spent several years working professionally in the live entertainment industry. With a passion for executing the creative visions of people from around the world and educating young technicians in the craft of technical theatre, Seneca has found a home in Santa Fe. Outside of the Lensic, Seneca enjoys playing guitar, cooking, hiking, and spending time with his friends, family, and cat, Ellie.

SHAWN PATRICK BOYD: A longtime advertising copywriter (Target, YouTube, more), in 2021 Shawn turned his skills toward self-publishing with his graphic novel debut, “Winona Forever.” It became an unexpected indie hit, selling 2,400 copies. On the back of that success, he and his illustration partner, Elijah Henry, went on to publish two stories with Boom! Studios in their horror anthology “Hello

Darkness” as well as the graphic novel “Van Gogh, Van Gone”, the “Winona Forever” sequel. To see what he’s up to visit: shawnpatrickboyd.com

SUSHA PRATT is in her 14th year as a school counselor. Most of her experience has been working in middle school, including at Monte del Sol for 4 years! She recently moved over to elementary school counseling and is enjoying the challenge of a new age group. She has mentored school counseling graduate students before, but this is her first time as a mentor for a Monte del Sol protégé. It’s been a great experience!

DR. SUZY JONES has been a small animal veterinarian in Santa Fe for over ten years. She graduated from Colorado State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine following her Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees in Microbiology from Eastern New Mexico University. In 2024, she completed the Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist (CVA) program at the Chi University in Reddick, Florida. Dr. Jones’s professional interests include internal medicine, nutrition and gastroenterology, cardiac and abdominal ultrasound and Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine including acupuncture, food therapy, and herbology. Her interest in veterinary medicine began at a very young age when she spent summers with both grandparents on their cattle ranches on the Laguna Pueblo reservation and outside of Portales, New Mexico. She lives with her family and three “Pet-A-Bulls” rescue dogs.



SVEN REDSUN has written software tools for fields including computational physics, interactive medical training, automated financial trading, digital humanities, and bioinformatics. He has contributed to several open source projects.

SYLVIA LAMAR discovered her passion for clay during high school and earned her BFA from New York State School of Ceramics at Alfred University. She later earned her J.D. from American University. After practicing law for over 25 years and serving as a District Court Judge for 12, she returned to her roots in ceramics, where she finds working with clay meditative and healing. She is eager to share her love of ceramics.

TANIA PACHECO was born and raised in Santa Fe. She enjoys a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, hiking, motorcycle racing, fishing, hunting, rock hounding, painting, and research. Tania values self-reliance and lives that philosophy through hunting, maintaining her own garden, and caring for chickens and ducks. Helping others has always been an important part of her life. She strongly believes in the power of community and finds great fulfillment in working with students at Monte del Sol.

TARA TOVAREK (Producer, Director) works with industry leaders including Rian Johnson, Walter Hill, Spike Lee, John R. Leonetti, and Joe Carnahan. Tara's production company, Golden Pictures (goldenpictures.us), offers world-wide production services for Feature Films, Commercials, and Branded Content. Tara proudly serves as an advisor on George R.R. Martin's Advisory Board for Stagecoach Foundation, as well

as, on the Mayor of Santa Fe's Film and Digital Media Council. Tara is repped by UTA. This is Tara's first time being a screenwriting mentor with Monte del Sol.

TESS WILKES was born and raised in Santa Fe and came up through its public schools. She is the Pro Bono Managing Attorney with the Children's Team at the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center and has worked in civil legal services on behalf of immigrants for over 12 years, and on immigration law cases for the last eight years. Her motivation to become a lawyer for immigrants came later, at age 21 working as a teacher to adult ESL students, who were separated from their families during a workplace ICE raid in rural Colorado in 2008. Tess remembers what it was like to have great teachers and mentors who saw her potential as a young student and is grateful for the opportunity to give back to Monte del Sol's wonderful students and staff.

TIM BROWN is a born and raised Santa Fean who helps his family run two local businesses. The Browns have a long history of metal workers, entrepreneurs, and fabrication mavericks who love to work with metal in all of its forms. In this "metallurgy" mentorship, that love and deep understanding of metal and tinkering has been indulged.

TONI GARCIA is the Adoptions Manager at the Santa Fe Animal Shelter. Working with animals is something that brings her joy and she appreciates being able to share that with others.

TONY POTTER has been studying Kenpo Karate since 1992. Tony currently holds a 7th Degree Black Belt



“I cannot thank you enough for all you’ve helped me through during this mentorship, and all you’ve helped me achieve. I really appreciate how you’ve helped me grow, not just in guitar but also as a person. When I started this mentorship I had a really hard time speaking up about what I didn’t understand and staying consistent with practice, which I still struggle with but you have really helped me overcome that by making me feel comfortable about being honest with you and myself.” – Monte del Sol Protégé

under Master Jeff Speakman and is the JSK 5.0 representative for the Midwest. Professor Potter travels with Master Speakman teaching seminars throughout Europe, New Zealand and Australia. In 2016 Mr. Potter began teaching a special needs high school program called KIVA. Teaching students with physical and cognitive limitations has become his passion. He is now the founder and president of It All Matters, Inc. This foundation is giving him the tools needed to make an even bigger difference in the lives of kids in Santa Fe. He is a great husband, dad, and friend.

VANESSA RIVERA is the CASA Program Director at Monte del Sol. She has been playing mariachi music for as long as she can remember, and currently is in a band called Mariachi Gran Victoria. She shares her love of music by mentoring Monte del Sol students. She is the mother of two young daughters.

WADE LEE is the co-director of a local outdoor adventure camp and after school program. He is an avid outdoors man who grew up exploring the mountains and rivers of Northern New Mexico.

Wade believes that all children deserve an opportunity to connect with nature and has a passion for outdoor and environmental education.

YEIMY ANTILLON was born in Mexico and raised in Santa Fe. Eager to pursue a career in health-care, she earned her Medical Assistant Certification. However, it was at New Mexico Cancer Care where she truly found her purpose. Inspired by the dedicated providers around her, she embarked on a journey to become a nurse and achieved her dream of becoming a nurse in 2015. For the past 17 years, she has had the privilege of caring for oncology patients alongside compassionate colleagues who continuously inspire and support her. Today, she continues to find fulfillment, cherishing every opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of her patients.

YESIKA NUÑEZ is the owner of Amazing Cakes by Yessy where she makes custom cakes of all kinds. Her cakes are unique and often elaborate highly creative creations.





THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM AT MONTE DEL SOL CHARTER SCHOOL

As we celebrate our 26th year as a school, we also appreciate 26 years of the Mentorship Program. Created when the school began as a Capstone Program and integral part of Monte del Sol's mission and culture, the program has served our school's youth with over 3900 mentorships. On a typical year about 100 mentors with many areas of expertise donate about 3,000 – 5,000 hours to help educate the youth of our city.

Learning becomes alive and relevant when students experience how the things they love connect to real people and activities. It is the relationship between our students and their mentors that drives the program's success, and helps to develop human capital for our city, modeling community service and social responsibility.

This innovative curriculum, has served as a model for other schools in the district, plays a leading role in connecting our students to the community, and our community to our school.



“As we kept meeting and meeting, I realized our friendship grew closer and closer. I now not only see you as a teacher, but a good friend who is willing to help out. I wanted to become a better artist, even if it meant sacrificing myself as a person, but you taught me that the importance as a person also matters, and I realized that that’s what gives me a purpose.”

—Monte del Sol Protégé



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