

# Real World Working Challenge

The Real World Working Challenge is an innovative workforce education program designed to provide high school students with a firsthand look into the inner-workings of state government while increasing their awareness of career opportunities with the State.

Over a period of 8 weeks, students meet as a group with a series of staff representatives from various divisions within the host agency. Students learn about each division and the roles and responsibilities therein, directly from industry professionals. As often as possible, students are brought out of the classroom and into the professional workplace environment.

Through the course of the program, students gain valuable insights into the structure, mission, vision, processes, and inner-workings of the agency. The program culminates with the presentation of student projects, each of which addresses a program related issue in their own communities, and prepared under the guidance of agency staff mentors.

The Real World Working Challenge is an important bridge between public schools and state government agencies. It serves to provide youth with a meaningful and valuable career exploration experience and will help to foster future generations of state employees.

Step	Action
1	Review the Real World Working Challenge informational video about the RWWC pilot program, a three-way Partnership between the State Personnel Office, The NM Department of Transportation, and the Santa Fe Indian School: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IcfUIWzq-VE&amp;t=5s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IcfUIWzq-VE&amp;t=5s</a>
2	Contact SPO Internship Program Manager, Michael Santillanes at: <a href="mailto:Michael.Santillanes@state.nm.us">Michael.Santillanes@state.nm.us</a> to schedule a Real World Working Challenge consultation. The Internship Program Manager will assist in planning the project as well as identifying and coordinating with partnering educational institution.