

Outdoor Learning Symposium

Building the Toolbox to Grow Outdoor Learning



CONSERVATION SCIENCE CENTER



New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute
New Mexico Highlands University



LANL FOUNDATION
Investing in Learning & Human Potential



Session 1: Outdoor Classrooms September 27, 4:00 - 5:30 pm MST

Speaker, Robbi Berry

Robbi Berry is a 5th grade teacher at Monte Vista Elementary School in Las Cruces, NM. She has been teaching for 27 years and is passionate about instilling a love of learning in her students. She has a Master's Degree In Elementary Education Curriculum & Instruction and a Master's Degree in Teaching Mathematics. She is currently serving as a NM PED Teacher Ambassador. She received the NM PED Excellence in Teaching Award in 2018 and was honored to be recognized as the 2017 Crystal Apple Teacher of the Year by the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce and the 2019 Educator of the Year by the Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She is the 2022 Las Cruces Teacher of the Year. She was recognized this past June by NM TeachPlus as an Innovator in Education for using problem-based learning in her classroom and for the outdoor learning project that her students worked on. The "Berry Bunch" testified during NM legislative sessions on the importance of outdoor learning and classrooms and were able to work with the Las Cruces Public Schools Superintendent to ensure that every school campus would have an outdoor learning space.



Why is Outdoor and Environmental Learning important to you? "I believe that student advocacy and joy for learning outdoors, leads to the process of funding and opportunities to grow outdoor classrooms at any school."

Presentation Topics: Advocacy and Student Leadership, Building and Expanding Outdoor Classrooms (what they look like and what the future plans are)