



News Release

Holy Ghost Catholic School Becomes First School in New Mexico, and One of the First Catholic Schools in the Nation, to Earn National Certificate for STEM Excellence

Albuquerque school displays excellence in integrating research and best practices in STEM, 21st century learning, and professional development

HOUSTON — Sept. 10, 2019 — Holy Ghost Catholic School is the first school in New Mexico — and one of the first Catholic schools in the nation — to earn the [National Certificate for STEM Excellence \(NCSE\)](#) from the [National Institute for STEM Education \(NISE\)](#).

The NCSE recognizes individual school campuses for their commitment to and systemic support of teachers' understanding and use of high-impact, evidenced-based STEM instructional strategies. With the support of an experienced STEM coach, nine teachers at Holy Ghost completed the [National Certificate for STEM Teaching \(NCST\)](#), while the school concurrently completed its requirements for the NCSE – Campus Certificate.

“A common misconception in schools is that STEM is about science, technology, engineering, and math content, or that it’s about adding a makerspace or robotics program. STEM is actually about implementing rigorous instructional strategies that can be applied in any content area,” said Dr. Noreen Duffy Copeland, Holy Ghost principal. “Working with NISE has moved our school to the next level of excellence. Through STEM, our teachers emphasize students’ development of 21st century skills like critical thinking, collaboration, and communication. NISE has focused our efforts to provide the best instructional practices in every classroom as we prepare students for STEM opportunities throughout their lives.”

“Effective STEM Education isn’t just about the content we teach, but how we teach it. How the teacher guides discussion and how students build understanding are key components of effective teaching and learning in STEM. I am excited to see what they are doing at Holy Ghost,” said New Mexico Public Education Department Cabinet Secretary Karen Trujillo.

For information, visit getstemcertified.com.

About the National Institute for STEM Education

NISE is more than a certifying body. It is a research-based support system for campuses and teachers seeking to strengthen STEM instruction and outcomes. Based on 15 STEM Teacher Actions that evolved from STEM professional development originally created at Rice University, NISE’s Campus and Teacher Certificates help school leaders and teachers understand and apply research and best practices in STEM, 21st-century learning, and professional development. For information, visit nise.institute.

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