Embedding Learning Opportunities in the RFP Process

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About CNM

- Established in 1965 with 155 students
- Now the largest post-secondary institution in New Mexico with over **28,000** students and **7 campuses**
Campus as a Living Lab at CNM:

Leveraging campus facilities, maintenance, operations, technologies, renovations, retrofits, events and other projects to teach current student learning outcomes in existing courses in innovative and interesting ways, while integrating sustainability concepts across the curriculum.
Learning Opportunities in RFPs

- How did this process begin?
  - Suggestion from SEED Center for Campus as a Living Lab
  - Decision of the Physical Plant Department
  - Welcomed by Purchasing Department
  - Selling point: creates new Learning Opportunities without having to find additional funding
Learning Opportunities in RFPs

- Sample RFP Language:
  - P-371: Area-Wide Integrated Controls System

Sustainable building practices and goals will be part of the learning experience and will address related topics including energy performance of a building, indoor environmental quality, equipment lifecycle, and predictive maintenance. The Respondent shall work with CNM to develop training opportunities for students throughout the project.

7. The Respondent shall assist CNM in the development of curriculum using the interface of installed OPC software as an instruction tool for use in a classroom setting. Additionally, CNM endeavors to designate one of their main campus buildings as a living lab to be used by instructors and students for hands-on training related to building controls and systems integration.
Learning Opportunities in RFPs

- Sample RFP Language:
  - Standard Language defining “Campus as a Living Lab” at CNM

“In the Fall of 2014 Central New Mexico Community college began to intentionally utilize the built environment as an educational tool. The ‘Campus as a Living Lab’ (CLL) initiative uses campus facilities, grounds, renovation projects, and related maintenance and operations as a means to teach both existing course outcomes and sustainability concepts across all academic departments.”
Response from Vendors

- Increased creativity in vendor proposals
- More thoughtful relationship between CNM and vendors
- Enthusiasm from vendors who have never been asked to participate in the educational process before
- Vendors and faculty work closely together to develop student learning opportunities
Value / Creating Buy-In

- Learning Opportunities are built into the project from conception to use which increases likelihood they will be utilized by faculty and students
- Integrated learning opportunities are vital for behavior change
- Behavior change has its own value:
  - Reduced energy costs
  - Reduced water use
  - Waste mitigation
  - Etc.
- Increases the value of every dollar spent on the built environment
- Helps to create a culture of sustainability at the institution