

# CHES Connection



August 2025, Issue 2

## CHES Superstars

### Congratulations to Our Newest CHES Superstar!



**MONIQUE ROMERO**  
SFCC



Monique's nomination came from Emily Perez with SFCC. Emily wrote:

"I would like to nominate Monique Romero from Core Cross Functional. She has done an amazing job at taking the lead in conversations regarding student accommodations and posing great questions regarding Workday's functionality."

CHES Superstars are individuals on project implementation teams, member college employees, or CHES employees, who are recognized based on the CHES Values of Collaboration, Honesty, Equity, Sustainability, and Student Success.

## Leading With Vision: Insight From Shaun



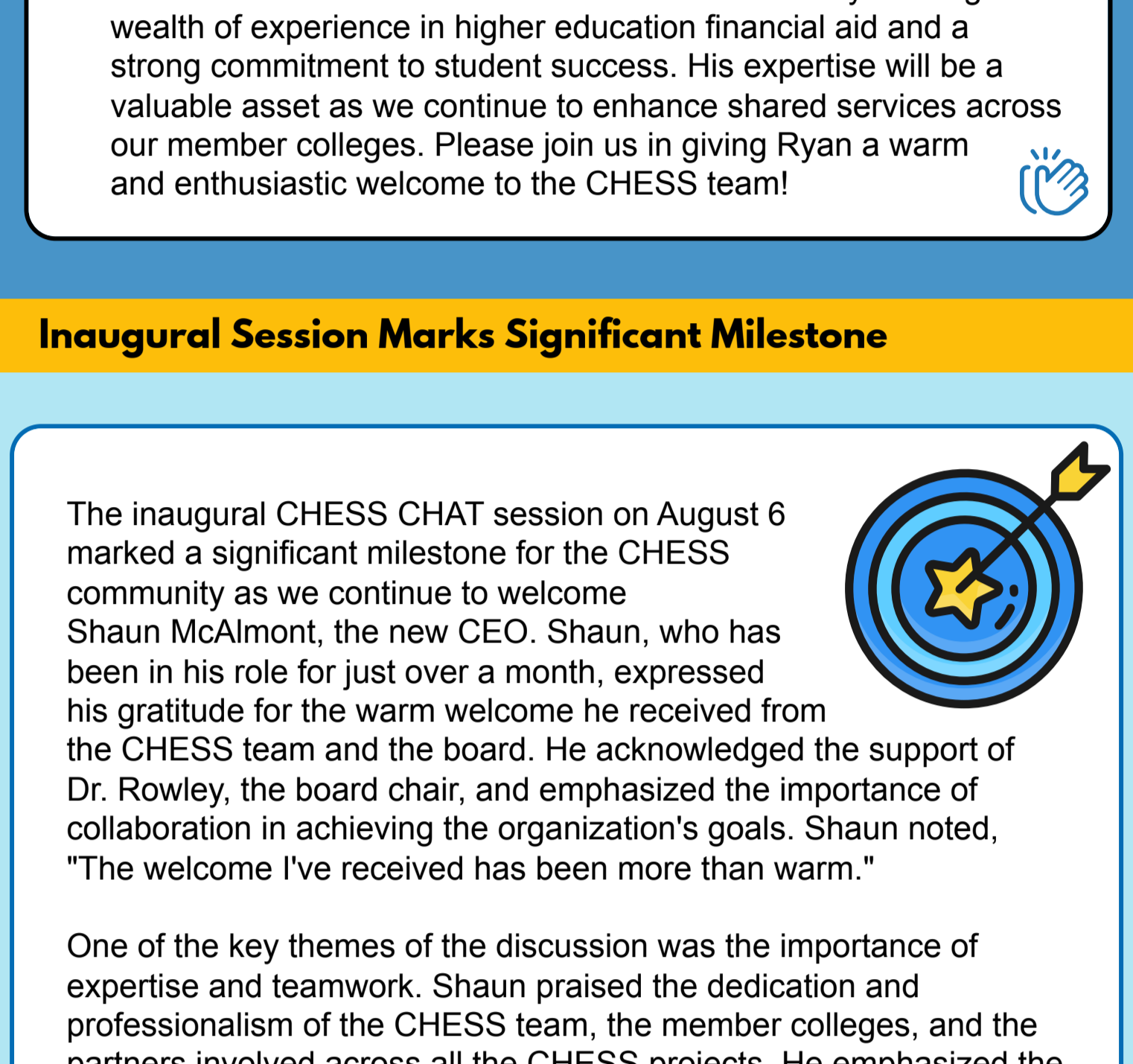
I'd like to share my genuine appreciation for the work so many of you have put into this project. In my short time here, I've seen the long hours, the sacrifices of personal time, and the extra efforts made by employees

across our colleges and with CHES. I know this implementation has demanded more than the usual workload, and I want to recognize the commitment it has taken from everyone involved. Your willingness to stretch beyond day-to-day responsibilities to solve problems and keep progress moving is what has brought us this far.

The implementation of Workday Student, along with the broader shared services effort, represents more than a technology upgrade. It is the culmination of a mission that began over five years ago, and one that our CHES staff and college partners have stayed committed to despite challenges along the way. That persistence and resilience are why we are confident about our success to come. For nearly 48,000 students across our member colleges in New Mexico, this means access to stronger systems and better support. For our colleges, it positions us to reach an expanded marketplace of education and services that will strengthen our institutions well into the future.

Along the way, we've seen individual "CHES superstars" who have gone above and beyond to embody the best of this collaborative effort. These colleagues remind us what can be achieved when dedication, creativity, and teamwork come together. Congratulations to Monique Romero, our superstar this month! I encourage you to use the nomination process to highlight the many superstars among us. Their example deserves to be recognized and celebrated. As we move through the next steps in this ambitious journey, let's stay steady and focused. The collaboration and dedication that have defined this project will carry us through to completion, and I am grateful for the role each of you is playing in making it possible.

## Welcome to the CHES Team!



**Ryan Augusto-Hayes**

We're thrilled to welcome **Ryan Augusto-Hayes** to CHES as the new **CHES Financial Aid Assistant Director**. Ryan brings a wealth of experience in higher education financial aid and a strong commitment to student success. His expertise will be a valuable asset as we continue to enhance shared services across our member colleges. Please join us in giving Ryan a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the CHES team!

## Inaugural Session Marks Significant Milestone

The inaugural CHES CHAT session on August 6 marked a significant milestone for the CHES community as we continue to welcome Shaun McAlmont, the new CEO. Shaun, who has been in his role for just over a month, expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome he received from the CHES team and the board. He acknowledged the support of Dr. Rowley, the board chair, and emphasized the importance of collaboration in achieving the organization's goals. Shaun noted, "The welcome I've received has been more than warm."



One of the key themes of the discussion was the importance of expertise and teamwork. Shaun praised the dedication and professionalism of the CHES team, the member colleges, and the partners involved across all the CHES projects. He emphasized the value of listening and learning from each stakeholder, noting that "everybody wants this to be successful." This collaborative spirit, he believes, is crucial for navigating the complexities of the project and achieving the shared vision of a more efficient and innovative educational system.

Looking ahead, Shaun expressed his excitement about the future of CHES and its potential to become a national model for higher education collaboration. He envisions a system that not only benefits the member colleges but also serves as a blueprint for other institutions across the country. "It's going to be amazing what we can do," he said, reflecting his enthusiasm and commitment to the mission. As CHES continues to evolve, Shaun's leadership and vision will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping its success.

Come be a part of CHES CHATS! The next session will take place on Wednesday, September 3 from 12:00 -1:00 pm MT. Also, if you have a topic to be discussed in the CHES CHAT, please send your topic to [info@ches.edu](mailto:info@ches.edu) and provide a subject line mentioning CHES CHAT.

## Join Us for CHES CHAT with Shaun McAlmont, CHES CEO

**CHAT**  
Come, Hear, Ask, Talk

Meet Shaun McAlmont, CEO

Welcome to CHES CHAT

Enjoy the Fresh, New Format

New Day & Time So You Can Attend

Have Your Lunch During this Casual Session

Email any specific questions or topics you'd like to discuss to [info@ches.edu](mailto:info@ches.edu) ahead of time!

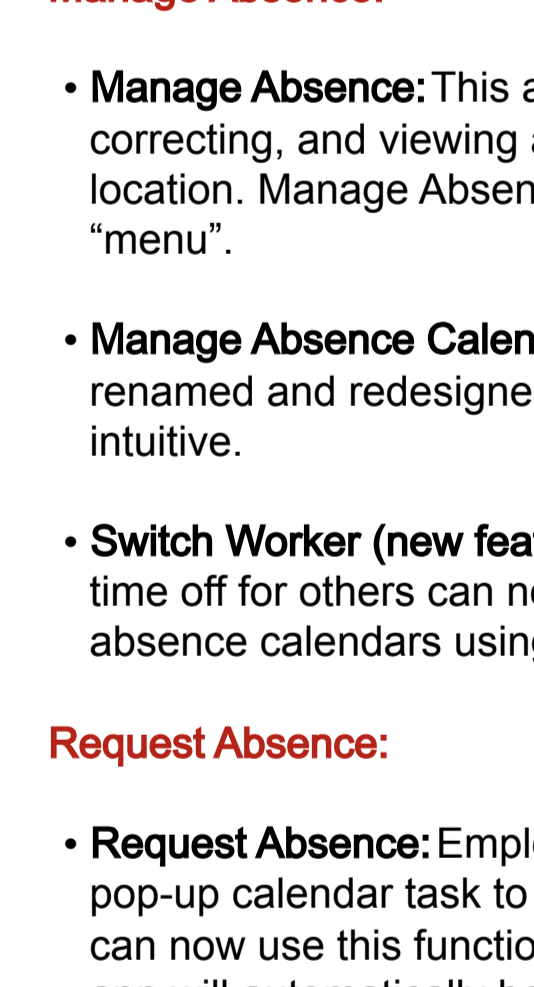
Come chat with CHES and get the real scoop, right from the source.

Use the button below to join the live session on **Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 12 Noon (Mountain Time)**

[Click Here to Join CHES CHAT on Wednesday, September 3, 2025](#)

Do you have a topic or question for CHES that you'd like to discuss during CHES CHAT? Send it before the session to [info@ches.edu](mailto:info@ches.edu)

## Building Workday Student Training Assets: A Collaborative Effort



The Organizational Change Management (OCM) Training Team is leading the creation of high-quality Training Assets—documents and media that guide end users through specific tasks in Workday Student. Examples include tip sheets that form a key part of the Student Information System (SIS) training experience.

CHESSTER, our honorary Subject Matter Expert (SME), discusses the steps of training asset development. According to CHESSTER,

"Each asset progresses through five phases: Development, Subject Matter Expert (SME) Review, Edit Review, Formatting, and Publishing. Each asset is reviewed for clarity and accuracy, making direct edits before moving it forward.

Currently, five functional workstreams are reviewing the first 12 assets in development. The OCM Training Team partners closely with these SMEs, creating initial content, facilitating reviews, and ensuring formatting and publishing standards are met.

This collaborative process ensures every Training Asset is accurate, user-friendly, and ready to support Workday Student users with confidence."

## Workday Release Update (2025R2)

**ESS**  
(ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS & SUPPORT)

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING RELEASE NEWS**

**ESS is reviewing and testing over 400 new items!**  
The current release cycle began on **August 16th (ESS Testing)** and will be live on **September 20th, 2025.**

**One update, for all employees to be aware of, is for the Workday Absence Calendar (Includes Absence & Leave Requests)**

Here are the highlights of key terms and new features for the Absence Calendar.

**Manage Absence:**

- Manage Absence:** This app consolidates functions like requesting, correcting, and viewing absence information into one central location. Manage Absence app will automatically be available in the "menu".
- Manage Absence Calendar:** The Absence Calendar itself has been renamed and redesigned to be more user-friendly and visually intuitive.
- Switch Worker (new feature):** Managers or individuals who manage time off for others can now easily switch between different workers' absence calendars using the "Switch Worker" button.

**Request Absence:**

- Request Absence:** Employees can now use the "Request Absence" pop-up calendar task to submit time off or leave requests. Employees can now use this functionality to initiate requests. Request Absence app will automatically be available in the "menu".

These changes aim to simplify absence management by centralizing functionalities, improving navigation, and introducing new ways to request and manage time off within Workday.



Congratulations to **Doreen Jaramillo** on her new position with CHES as **ESS Payroll/TTAb Lead**.

We can't wait to see how wonderful Doreen will be in her new position!

## CHES Job Openings

**Now Hiring**

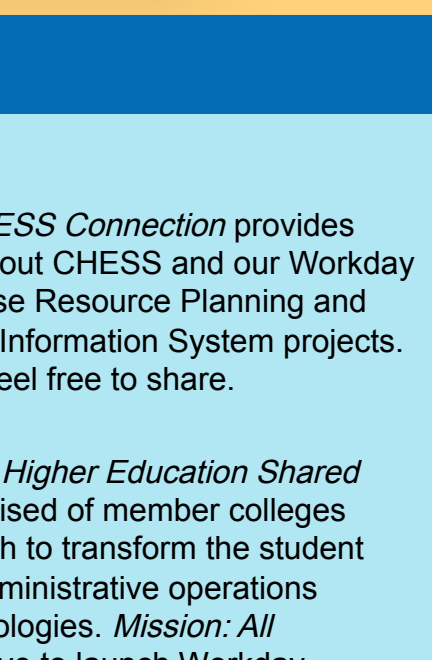
Join our team and make a difference—now hiring!

**CHES Payroll Manager**

[View our open positions at ches.edu](#)

## Quick Access to the Technology Support Hub

The **Technology Support Hub** is located within the Member Hub on the CHES website. The pull-down menus will quickly get you to the right information. Use the buttons below to get the information you need most!



- SERVICE REQUEST HUB**
  - Create a New Service Request Ticket
  - Follow Up on a Service Request
- Scheduled Maintenance
- Tenant Management
- Current Outages (Coming Soon)
- TENANT INFORMATION HUB**
- Top Reports by Functional Area
- Reporting Tips & Tricks
- REPORTING HUB**
- RFC (Request For Change) Process
- Change Board
- RFC (REQUEST FOR CHANGE) PROCESS**

## Your Feedback Is Important!



**We want to hear from you—yes, you!**

Whether you've got brilliant ideas, helpful suggestions, or just want to give CHESSTER the Squirrel a virtual high-five, this is your chance to speak up. Your feedback helps us make CHES even better for everyone. So go nuts and drop us a line—CHESSTER'S all ears (and tail)!

[CLICK HERE TO LEAVE FEEDBACK](#)

## Contact CHES

Do you have any questions? Do you have suggestions for new stories?

**CONTACT:**  
Karen Grandinetti  
CHES Communications  
[karen.grandinetti@ches.edu](mailto:karen.grandinetti@ches.edu)



The **CHES Connection** provides news about CHES and our Workday Enterprise Resource Planning and Student Information System projects. Please feel free to share.

*CHES, the Collaborative for Higher Education Shared Services, is a nonprofit comprised of member colleges that employ a unique approach to transform the student experience and streamline administrative operations through state-of-the-art technologies. Mission: All Together is the CHES initiative to launch Workday.*