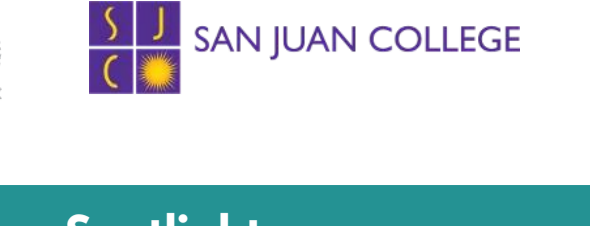


CHES Connection

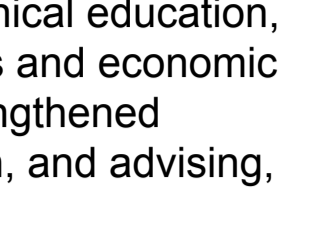
CHES COLLABORATIVE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION SHARED SERVICES



January 2026, Issue 2

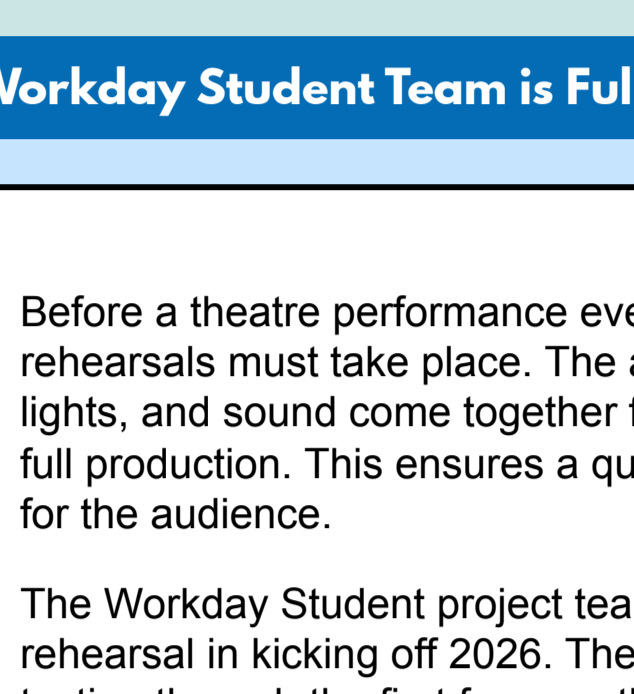
Member College Spotlight

Luna Community College Champions Student Success & Regional Growth



As 2026 begins, Luna Community College (LCC) stands out for its commitment to student success and regional progress. Last spring, LCC celebrated its largest graduating class in recent years, marking a nearly 10 percent increase in degree completions. Students are thriving in programs such as Nursing, Allied Health, career and technical education, and transfer pathways, all designed to lead directly to jobs and economic stability close to home. Beyond academics, LCC has strengthened support services addressing food insecurity, mental health, and advising, ensuring students can overcome barriers to completion.

A major milestone for LCC this year is the approval of nearly \$2.8 million in emergency funding from the New Mexico State Board of Finance to address urgent student housing needs. This investment will support the purchase and installation of modular dormitory units, providing safe and reliable housing for up to 84 students on campus by Fall 2026. President Dr. Carol Linder described the funding as “transformational,” removing a critical barrier to success for students across the region, especially those from rural communities and student-athletes who previously faced housing constraints. The project includes site preparation, IT infrastructure, and furnishings, ensuring students have the resources they need to thrive.



Dr. Carol Linder, President of Luna Community College, poses with a CHESSTER Award during the most recent Customer Confirmation Session and End-to-End Testing event.

Keep up the great work, LCC! We are proud that you are a CHES Member College.

Under Dr. Linder's leadership, LCC has made significant strides in institutional improvement, filling key leadership roles, completing overdue audits, and upgrading campus facilities. Looking ahead to the 2026 New Mexico Legislative Session, LCC is advocating for further investments in Allied Health facilities, campus and technology infrastructure, and system modernization. With responsible public investment and continued collaboration among trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners, LCC remains a pathway to opportunity, workforce readiness, and economic stability for students and families throughout northeastern New Mexico.

Workday Student Team is Fully Engaged in End-to-End Testing

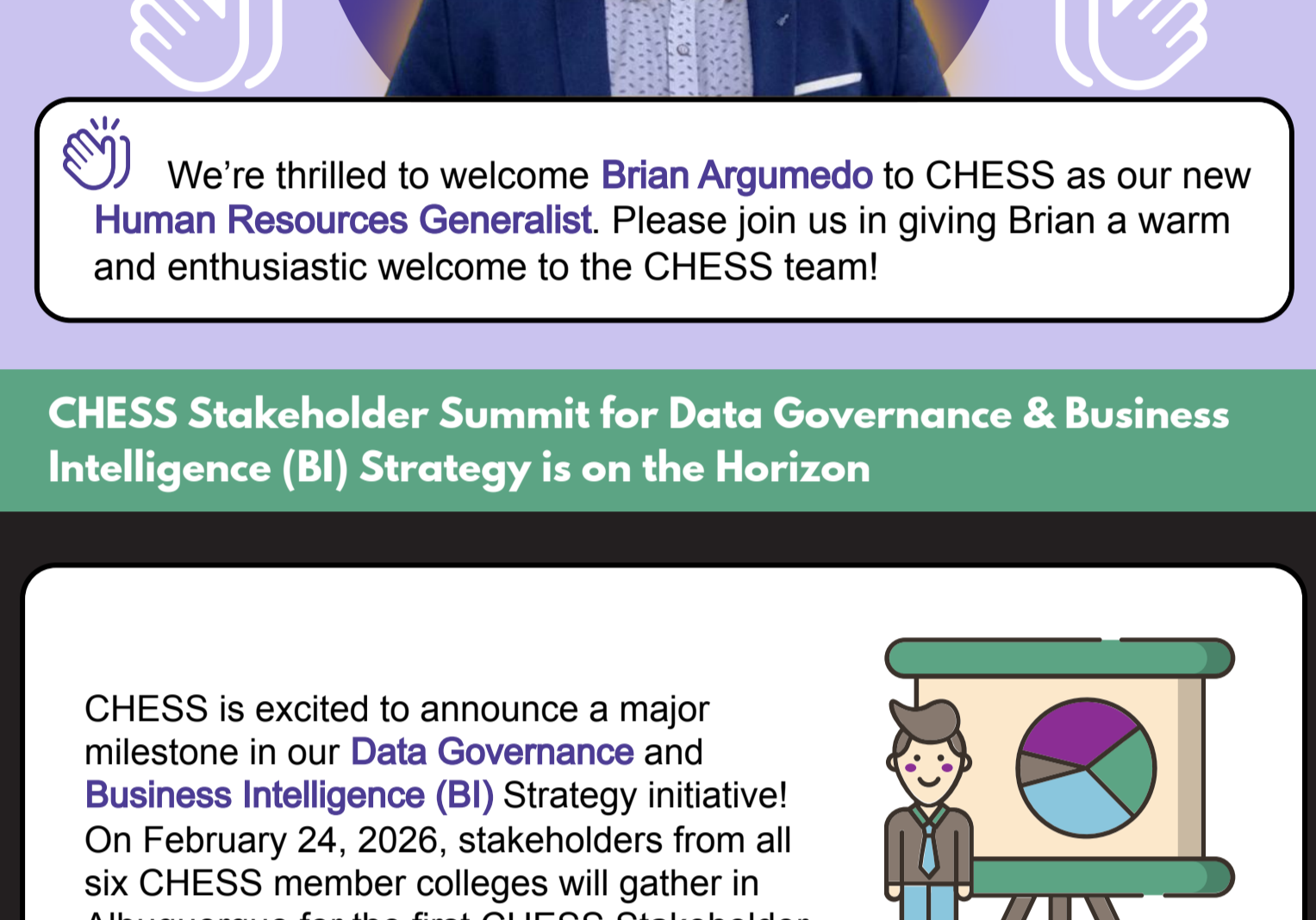
Before a theatre performance ever happens, rehearsals must take place. The actors, props, lights, and sound come together for rehearsal of the full production. This ensures a quality performance for the audience.



The Workday Student project team is engaging in their own kind of rehearsal in kicking off 2026. They are working on End-to-End (E2E) testing through the first few weeks of the new year. E2E testing involves completing real-life scenarios in the system to ensure that every step works together smoothly. The goal is to see whether future users of the system would be able to do their everyday tasks without errors or surprises.

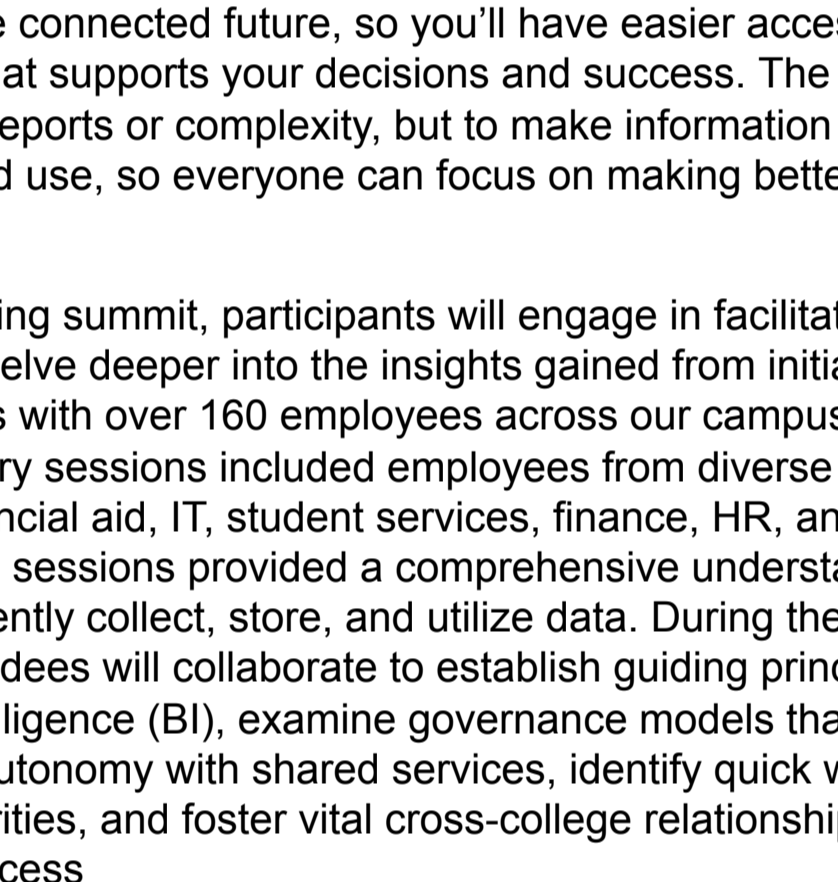
E2E testing allows the project team to catch issues that show when different parts of the system talk to each other. This type of testing reduces the risk of specific tasks not working when the system goes live and increases the likelihood of positive experiences for staff, faculty, and students using the system.

The project team is hard at work ensuring that E2E tests for regular tasks, such as a student applying for admission, registering for classes, and having tuition and fees calculated, are working and synchronized from start to finish.



Throughout 2026, CHES and the Workday Student implementation team members remain committed to a smooth, well-supported transition. Thank you for your continued dedication and patience as we build a modern, student-centered future all together.

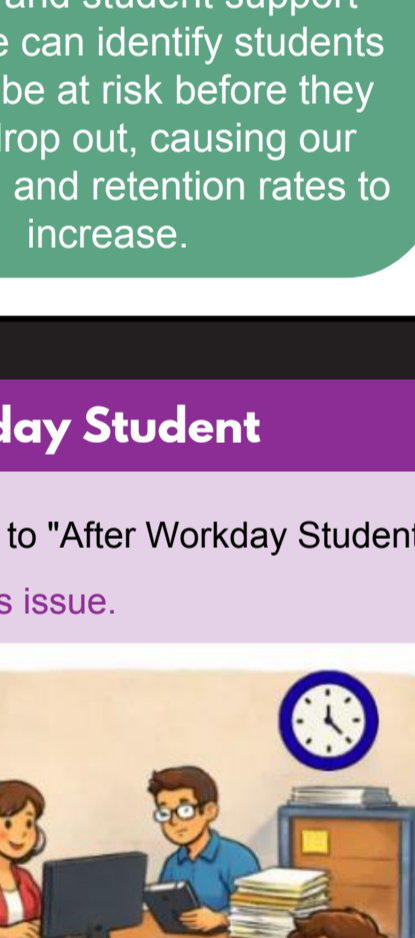
Welcome to the CHES Team!



We're thrilled to welcome **Brian Argumedo** to CHES as our new **Human Resources Generalist**. Please join us in giving Brian a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the CHES team!

CHES Stakeholder Summit for Data Governance & Business Intelligence (BI) Strategy is on the Horizon

CHES is excited to announce a major milestone in our **Data Governance and Business Intelligence (BI) Strategy** initiative! On February 24, 2026, stakeholders from all six CHES member colleges will gather in Albuquerque for the first CHES Stakeholder Summit.



Every day, hundreds of people across CHES colleges make decisions about students, budgets, schedules, and resources. These decisions are most effective when supported by reliable information. However, our current strategies to access data can be challenging. Reports can be scattered, data doesn't always align, and people spend too much time searching for answers instead of using the reports for decisions. With the upcoming launch of Workday Student, managing and leveraging data will become even more critical.

That's why CHES member colleges are joining forces to build a smarter, more connected future, so you'll have easier access to reliable information that supports your decisions and success. The goal is not to create more reports or complexity, but to make information easier to find, trust, and use, so everyone can focus on making better decisions together.

At the upcoming summit, participants will engage in facilitated workshops designed to delve deeper into the insights gained from initial discovery conversations with over 160 employees across our campuses. The initial discovery sessions included employees from diverse roles, including financial aid, IT, student services, finance, HR, and academic affairs. These sessions provided a comprehensive understanding of how colleges currently collect, store, and utilize data. During the upcoming summit, attendees will collaborate to establish guiding principles for business intelligence (BI), examine governance models that balance institutional autonomy with shared services, identify quick wins and strategic priorities, and foster vital cross-college relationships to drive collective success.

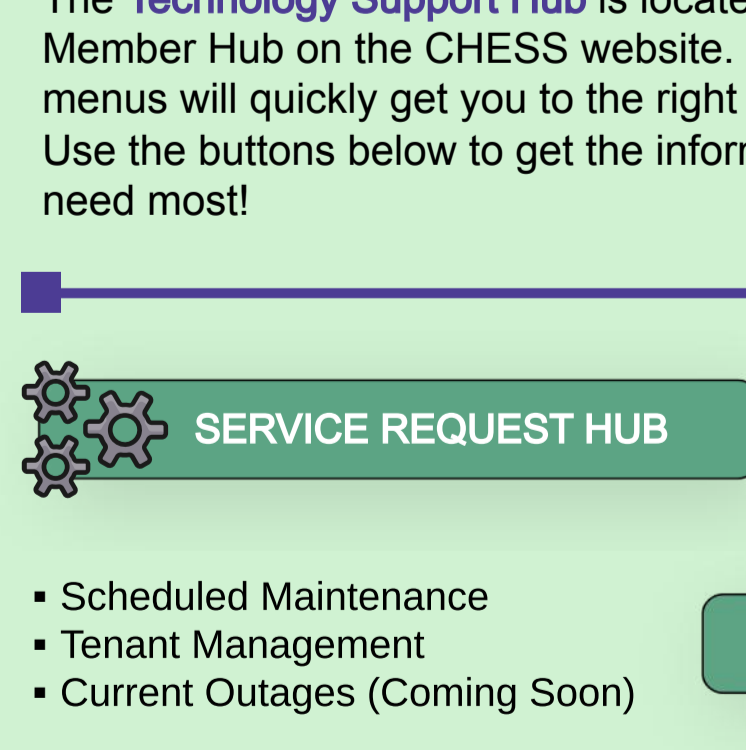
What are Data Governance and Business Intelligence (BI)?

Data Governance is the framework of policies, standards, and practices that ensure data is managed responsibly, securely, and effectively throughout its lifecycle. It defines how data is collected, stored, accessed, and used to maintain quality, protect privacy, and support compliance. Effective governance empowers us to trust and confidently use our data for reporting, analysis, and decision-making.

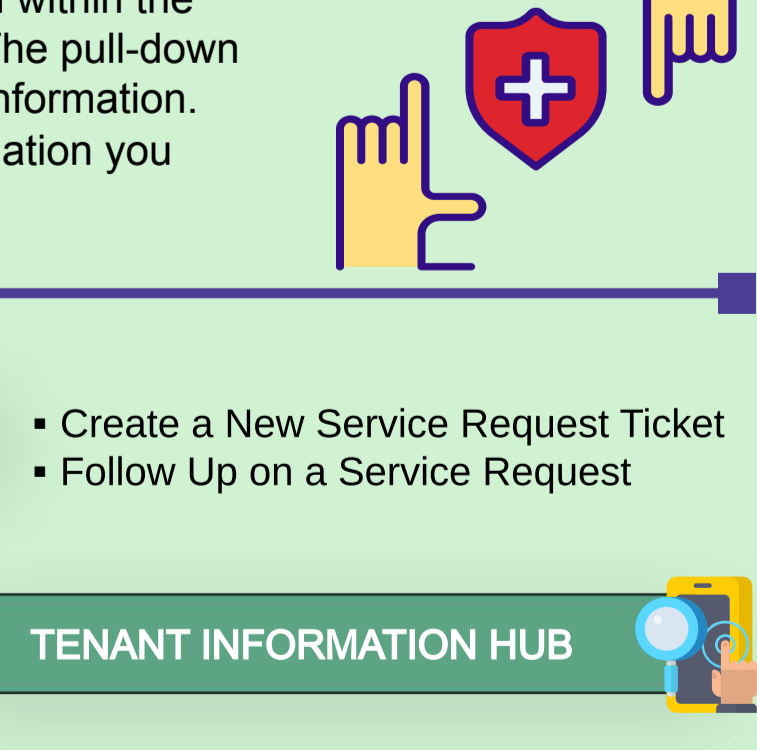
Business Intelligence (BI) refers to the technologies and practices that turn raw data into meaningful insights, enabling leaders and stakeholders to identify trends, measure performance, and make informed strategic choices. One example is Early Risk Identification, which will enable proactive outreach from advising and student support teams. We can identify students who may be at risk before they stop or drop out, causing our graduation and retention rates to increase.

Spot the Differences - Before & After Workday Student

Can you spot 6 differences from "Before Workday Student" to "After Workday Student"? The answer key is at the bottom of this issue.



Before Workday Student



After Workday Student

CHES CHAT Returns Next Month

CHES CHAT Returns February 4, 2026

Use the button below to join the live session at 12 Noon (Mountain Time)

[Click Here to Join CHES CHAT on Wednesday, February 4, 2026](#)

Empower Change. Shape the Future. Become a Workday Student Change Agent!



Workday Student is transforming how we manage student information, streamline processes, and support success across campus. To make this transformation a success, we need dedicated change agents—member college employees who care deeply about making a positive impact and helping their colleagues adapt and thrive in this new environment.

Change agents play a vital role in connecting people, information, and innovation at each member college. They listen, share updates, answer questions, and help their departments understand what's changing and why. Most importantly, they ensure that everyone feels supported and confident as we transition to Workday Student.

Why become a Change Agent?

- Be among the first to learn about new processes and tools in Workday Student.
- Influence how your department adopts and benefits from the new system.
- Strengthen teamwork and enhance campus-wide collaboration.
- Build valuable leadership, communication, and project collaboration skills.
- Make a lasting difference by helping your peers embrace new ways of working.

Your involvement matters.

By becoming a change agent, you'll help us move forward together—bridging the gap between the technical rollout and the people who use Workday every day. With your insight and influence, the Workday Student implementation will be smoother, faster, and more successful for everyone.

Become a change agent to help lead the way to a more connected and efficient campus experience!

[Click Here for the Mission Change Agent Volunteer Application](#)

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

TENANT INFORMATION HUB

- Scheduled Maintenance
- Tenant Management
- Current Outages (Coming Soon)

REPORTING HUB

- Top Reports by Functional Area
- Reporting Tips & Tricks

Spot the Differences - Before & After Workday Student - Answer Key

With Workday Student, everyday tasks become simpler and more connected. Fewer sticky notes and paper files reflect streamlined processes and better access to information in one system, while a calmer, more organized workspace supports staff efficiency. The result is a smoother experience for both staff and students—less time spent tracking information, and more time focused on meaningful support and success. Smiles all around!

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 CHESSTER 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

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 employs 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.