CHESS Connection

Clovis Community College · CNM · Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College · San Juan College · SFCC · Luna Community College

October 2025, Issue 1

Spotlight: Celebrating Excellence – Travis Eli Thompson Honored with 40 Under 40 Award

The CHESS community is proud to celebrate Travis Eli Thompson from Central New Mexico Community College (CNM), who was recognized in May 2025 with the prestigious Albuquerque Business First "40 Under 40" award. This honor highlights young professionals who are making a meaningful impact in their careers and communities, and Travis exemplifies both. His dedication to innovation, education, and collaboration continues to shine through his leadership and commitment to student success.

Within CHESS, Travis plays a pivotal role on the Workday Student Organizational Change Management (OCM) Training Team as the SIS Training Team Lead Coordinator, guiding efforts to ensure a smooth and effective transition to the new Student Information System (SIS). His expertise in training design and communication has been instrumental in aligning goals across colleges and empowering users through clear and impactful learning materials. Beyond supporting the Workday Student project, Travis also made significant contributions to the Workday ERP Implementation, serving as a valued member of the ERP Training Team.

His professional growth has been remarkable, and his continued leadership reflects the collaborative spirit that drives CHESS forward. Travis's achievements remind us that behind every successful system implementation are talented individuals who bring passion, creativity, and vision to their work.

CHESS Superstars

Congratulations to Our Newest CHESS Superstars!

BRANDON FINNEY CCC

PAUL MOORE CCC

Paul's nomination came from Henry Kilackey, CHESS. Henry wrote:

"I would like to nominate Paul Moore as a CHESS Superstar for his excellent collaboration and support throughout the planning and execution of the recent CHESS Workday Student Onsite at CCC. Paul demonstrated initiative in scheduling meeting rooms and providing helpful insights in all of the planning meetings leading up to the event. His contributions resulted in a welcoming and productive onsite event attended by over 90 in-person participants and over 40 remote participants."

Brandon's nomination came from Henry Kilackey, CHESS. Henry wrote:

"I would like to nominate Brandon Finney as a CHESS Superstar for his excellent collaboration and support throughout the planning and execution of the recent CHESS Workday Student Onsite at CCC. Brandon coordinated several essential details throughout the planning and provided helpful insights in all of the planning meetings leading up to the event. His contributions resulted in a welcoming and productive onsite event attended by over 90 in-person participants and over 40 remote participants. I appreciate his partnership throughout the process of organizing this event."

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

WOW (Wonders of Workday) Moments

During the CHESS Workday Student onsite meeting at Clovis Community College last month, moments of celebration brought energy and appreciation to the teams in attendance. Among these highlights were the "WOW" moments—short for "Wonders of Workday"—showcasing the exciting potential Workday Student offers.

CNM's Heather Dodson-Smith of the Student Records/Academic Foundation workstream shared an impactful "WOW" moment that is paving the way for the transformation of the student experience.

Heather demonstrated a Registration Troubleshooting Console that provides both students and staff a centralized hub to diagnose registration issues such as holds and missing requirements. Students will have access to a troubleshooter button that leads to helpful details, while staff will have a more detailed console to quickly resolve issues and support students. Also, Heather showed how documents including self-generated summaries that simplify results by listing why a student cannot register, reducing time spent reviewing each console item.

Heather Dodson-Smith, CNM, remotely presents her WOW Moment introduction during the CHESS SIS Onsite at CCC.

Benefits Open Enrollment is Underway in Workday!

All CHESS member college employees will utilize the self-service option in Workday for Benefits Open Enrollment. While some requests will require additional supporting documents, most changes can now be made right from your Workday Home page. Here's how to get started:

As part of Open Enrollment, benefits-eligible employees will have a note in their Workday "My Tasks" titled, "Change Benefits for Open Enrollment."

Clicking the "Let's Get Started" button will take employees to the enrollment screen, where current benefits coverages and their costs can be viewed, and desired changes can be made.

Any questions should be directed to the Benefits Office at your college.

It is against of this year's Open Enrollment Period and other needs, employees can access tip sheets from the Training Hub at CHESS.edu.

MOVEMENT
- **Dental** Delta Dental
- **UPDATED** **Medical** Blue Cross Blue Shield
- **Vision** Davis Vision

Visit CHESS.edu for tip sheets available in multiple languages to assist.

Workday Release News from CHESS ESS

Workday Release Highlights

Updated Training Courses

To support the recent Absence Calendar changes, two new training courses are now available:

- Navigating the Absence Experience for Employees
- Navigating the Absence Experience for Managers

Additionally, the following courses have been updated with the latest information:

- Getting Started in Workday: for Employees
- Getting Started in Workday: for Managers
- Getting Started in Workday: for Faculty
- Getting Started in Workday: for Time and Absence Roles

All courses are available in Workday Learning under CHESS Shared Content.

Join Us for CHESS CHAT with Shaun McAlmont , CHESS CEO

CHESS CHAT

Come, Hear, Ask, Talk

Quick updates, Q&A, and more!

Hear Shaun's Vision for CHESS and Its Impact

Bring questions, ideas, and conversation!

Meet your CHESS CEO, Shaun McAlmont

Welcome CHESS CHAT!

Come chat with CHESS and get the scoop, straight from the source.

Use the button below to join the live session on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 12 Noon (Mountain Time)

Click Here to Join CHESS CHAT on Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Do you have a topic or question for CHESS that you'd like to discuss during CHESS CHAT? Send it before the session to info@chess.edu

CHESS Jobs

We Are Hiring

Join our team and make a difference—now hiring!

CHESS Payroll ERB Accountant

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CHESS PAYROLL ERB ACCOUNTANT POSITION

Workday Student Word Scramble Challenge!

We're in the middle of an exciting transformation with the Workday Student Implementation—but how well do you know some of the key terms and features? Put your knowledge to the test with our Word Scramble Challenge!

Unscramble these Workday Student words:

1. ELCSDHUE
2. MNELIOLRNET
3. NOREGTRSTAI
4. CANDECAI PRLA
5. TUDNEST BHU
6. ROCSUE TESONIC FONTINDEI
7. ORTCHO
8. ECAMADIC NUIT

Hint: They're all things students and staff will interact with once Workday Student is live!

How to play:
Send your answers to info@chess.edu by the end of the month. The first 5 correct submissions will be entered into a drawing for a prize. Winners and answers will be posted in the November 2025 (Issue 1) CHESS Connection.

Quick Access to the Technology Support Hub

The Technology Support Hub is located within the Member Hub on the CHESS 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
- Scheduled Maintenance
- Tenant Management
- Current Outages (Coming Soon)

TENANT INFORMATION HUB
- Create a New Service Request Ticket
- Follow Up on a Service Request

REPORTING HUB
- Top Reports by Functional Area
- Reporting Tips & Tricks

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 CHESS even better for everyone. So go nuts and drop us a line—CHESSTER's all ears (and tail)!

CLICK HERE TO LEAVE FEEDBACK

Contact CHESS

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

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The CHESS Connection is a monthly newsletter that provides Workday Enterprise Resource Planning and Student Information System projects. Please feel free to share.

CHESS, the Collaborative for Higher Education Shared Services, is a nonprofit consortium of member colleges that employs a unique approach to transform the student experience and business operations of its members through state-of-the-art technologies. Mission: All Together is the CHESS initiative to launch Workday.