

Irene Den Bleyker

Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Multicultural Education
University of New Mexico, Gallup Campus

Educational background

Masters of Art in Teaching, New Mexico State University
B.A. in Elementary Education, Calvin College
New Mexico Administrative Licensure, Eastern New Mexico University
Endorsement, Teaching English as a Second Language, Eastern New Mexico University

Past positions related to teacher education

Interim director, University of New Mexico, Zuni Campus
Interim director, University of New Mexico, Gallup Childcare
Adjunct professor, University of New Mexico, Extended University
Educational Coach, Gallup McKinley County Preschools
Director, Four Corners Writing Project
Co-Principal Investigator, Navajo Nation Head Start Grant
Teacher, Pre-K to 12

National Educational Memberships

Association for Childhood Education International
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
International Dyslexia Association
International Reading Association
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Community College Teacher Education Program

Past NACCTEP Board positions or committees:

Scholarship Review Committee

What is your vision for community college teacher education programs?

My vision is for community college teacher education programs to provide a firm foundation for students seeking a teaching certificate or license. Community colleges should maintain rigorous academic requirements, embrace diversity, and encourage mentoring and advisement of students. These concepts contribute to retention of students and a high quality institution.

What advice would you give to a future teacher?

Collaborate with other teachers, learn from one another. Take every aspect and interest in life and recognize that those experiences contribute to making you a better teacher. Teach students that life is a classroom and that the people you interact with in life will enrich you as a person. Go forward with a positive attitude, providing a blessing to those who surround you.

Interest or hobbies

Traveling, hiking, reading books, writing poetry, and tutoring struggling readers.