

Mr. Benjamin "Benji" Lachelt *Business Capstone Project Teacher & Success Coach* is a dedicated educator committed to integrative, project-based learning, and he is honored to serve the Siembra Leadership High School community. In his role as Business Capstone Project Teacher and Success Coach, he supports students in developing the academic, professional, and personal skills needed to thrive beyond graduation.

Mr. Lachelt brings a rich background in education to his work at Siembra. He previously taught Southwest and Native Studies at Ignacio High School and Middle School in Ignacio, Colorado, and has served as an Educational Assistant at the Bernalillo County Youth Services Center and as an ESL Instructor at the University of New Mexico. These experiences have shaped his student-centered approach and deep commitment to equity in education.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Political Economy from the Johnston Center for Integrative Studies at the University of Redlands and has completed graduate coursework in Community and Regional Planning at the University of New Mexico.

Beyond the classroom, Mr. Lachelt is actively engaged in strengthening economic vitality in rural New Mexico through his involvement with the Torrance County Listening Project. He is also a musician who enjoys playing in a band with a longtime friend, and his personal interests include economic development, music, and literature.

A native of Durango, Colorado, Mr. Lachelt cherishes time spent with his partner and family. He is proud to bring his diverse professional and personal experiences to his students and colleagues at Siembra Leadership High School.