

STAY Connected:



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New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders
6600 Palomas Avenue, NE
NMAA Building
Albuquerque, NM 87109
505-217-2345

info@nmcel.org

www.nmcel.org

November, 2017

NMSSA Annual Retreat Embassy Suites, Albuquerque October 19, 2017



Superintendents lined up by years of service.



Strategic Planning



Save the Date
November 1 - 4, 2017

La Cosecha

22nd Annual National Dual Language Conference

www.lacosecha.dlenm.org

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Honoring
nuestros antepasados

"El espacio fomentó poder tener la mejor experiencia de intercambio con otras personas. El grupo de personas que organizó La Cosecha evidenció ser un grupo altamente calificado para promover un ambiente de intercambio de ideas y amistad." -Teacher

"My favorite thing about La Cosecha is that parents, paras, teachers, principals and administrators can all attend and find sessions that fit their needs for each time slot."
-Administrator

"The sessions were excellent & the presenters were very engaging & knowledgeable, & willing to continue to provide support & guidance as we implement strategies. What a commitment!"
-Leadership Coach

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Albuquerque, NM will be the backdrop for this year's largest national dual language conference – *La Cosecha* 2017!

La Cosecha will bring together over 2,500 educators, parents, researchers, and dual language supporters from across the country and around the world.

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Visit www.lacosecha.dlenm.org for the most up-to-date conference and registration information.

¡Seguimos con La Cosecha!



La Cosecha

2017 Conference Pricing

Registration Type	Early	Regular	Late
	July 15, 2017	Sept. 25, 2017	Oct. 25, 2017
FUENTE365 Rate	\$345	\$385	\$485
Renewing or New FUENTE365	\$395	\$435	\$535
Non FUENTE365 Rate	\$425	\$485	\$585

Visit www.lacosecha.dlenm.org for more information or scan the QR code with your phone!



La Cosecha is hosted by Dual Language Education of New Mexico
1309 4th Street SW, Suite E. • Albuquerque, NM 87102
www.dlenm.org



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Stan's Straight Talk

Colleagues:



I want to appreciate those of you who attended our recent strategic planning Session for the NMSSA. Several important results came from that Session that affect the entire NMCEL organization. The two are our legislative platform for the 2018 Regular Session and the effort to create a new vision for public education in New Mexico. My discussion with many of you, this year, has often focused on the reality that educational policy and direction is being handed down to us rather than being created by us. You have often lamented the “raids on resources,” “underfunding of our mission,” and the “excessive burdens of over-played accountability.” As a result, you have often stated that “you don’t mind being accountable,” “understand the State of New Mexico’s resource challenges,” and “appreciate the frustrations that parents express about provisioning what their children need from school.”

To that end, the NMCEL Board, now followed by the NMSSA Board, have adopted an 18 month plan to move New Mexico Public Education to a more sustainable, focused, productive and supported place. Therefore, each Board has directed me to develop our strategy to succeed. These two essential elements will provide direction in attaining that goal.

Our Legislative Plan

At this writing, we are finalizing the legislative plan. The following bullets are the core of that plan. Please treat it as a draft, but it is essentially the following:

Local Control:

- All legislation passed by the New Mexico State Legislature must support the return of local control to districts and local boards of education. The best point of decision making and accountability to our school communities rests closest to our students. Therefore, local superintendents and local boards must be the first line of decision making about education.
- The New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) directly assigns the superintendent of schools as the chief executive officer of the district. The State of New Mexico must allow the superintendent to make the decisions that are most appropriate to the district. The return of Superintendent prerogatives in decision making for local districts must be honored.
- Below the line funding must be reduced and should be placed in the middle of the line so that sufficient funding is available for instructional materials and transportation and above the line for local districts to utilize for specialized programs that have been proven as beneficial for at least three years (such as Pre-K, K-3+, etc.). Every district must have access to those funds on a scaled basis.

Sufficiency of Funding: (Transportation and Instructional Materials)

- No future legislation that reduces funding for New Mexico Public Schools is acceptable. (ie: raids on cash balances or unfunded mandates).

Continued on page 11

Join us for our next

Boot Camp in Savannah, GA

Attend our Next Boot Camp
January 25 - 26, 2018
Savannah, GA



Take charge of your career, increase your knowledge, and gain the respect of your peers and superiors with career enhancing professional development. AASPA Personnel Administrator Boot Camp is an engaging learning experience and will help you ignite your passion for human resources.

Our most popular regional meeting, this two-day workshop offers a variety of essential topics for all HR administrators. Breakouts follow two strands of topics - one for the basic HR professional and another for the more advance administrator. Topics include recruitment, HR legislation, hiring, employee evaluation, employee discipline and more!

[Click here for more information.](#)

Price through 1/3/18

Member: \$295

Non-member: \$350

Register Now

Who Should Attend:

- * HR directors
- * Superintendents
- * Assistant superintendents
- * Principals
- * Business officials
- * Personnel office staff

When

Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018

Friday, Jan. 26, 2018

Where

Marriott Savannah Riverfront
Savannah, GA

(912) 233-7722

Please mention

AASPA to receive the

group rate of \$159 + tax by 1/3/18.

[Print Registration](#)

[Online Registration](#)

[More Information](#)



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505-281-3198

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2018 NMCEL Scholarship Announcement

NMCEL is pleased to announce a scholarship opportunity for seniors who will graduate in May of 2018. The NMCEL Board has allocated funding for two \$3,000 scholarships to be awarded to current seniors who will enroll in a college or university in the Fall of 2018. [A link to the Scholarship Application will be available on our website on November 17, 2017.](#)

Criteria:

- 1) Candidate must be a graduating senior from any public high school in the state of New Mexico.
- 2) Candidate must have a GPA of 3.0 or better for consideration.
- 3) Preference will be given to those entering the field of education (teacher, counselor, school business official, human resources, etc.)

Applications must be emailed to the NMCEL office no later than: **February 23, 2018**

Applicants must submit the following completed documents:

- 1) The Scholarship Application Form (signed by a high school official)
- 2) Two letters of recommendation from teachers and/or school administrators.
- 3) A written essay (at least 300 words) outlining reasons for entering the field of education.

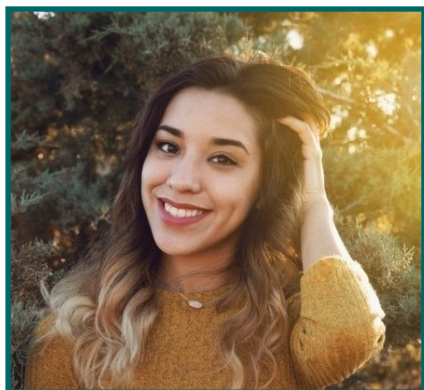
Finalists must submit an Official High School Transcript prior to the interview process.

Email to: scholarship@nmcel.org (preferred method of submission)

Mail to: NMCEL Scholarship

Attn: Julie Arnold
6600 Palomas Avenue NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

NMCEL 2017 Scholarship Recipients



Annie Hernandez - Hobbs High



Marissa Ann Luna - Estancia High

Affiliates

- New Mexico School Superintendents Association (NMSSA)
- Albuquerque Public Schools Principals Association (APSPA)
- Alliance for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning (NMSU)
- Cooperative Educational Services (CES)
- Eastern New Mexico Educational Resource Center (ENMERC)
- New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA)
- New Mexico Association of Bilingual Educators (NMABE)
- New Mexico Association of Educational Retirees (NMAER)
- New Mexico Association of Elementary School Principals (NMAESP)
- New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals (NMASSP)
- New Mexico Association of School Business Officials (NMAASBO)
- New Mexico Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (NMACSD)
- New Mexico School Personnel Association (NMSPA)
- New Mexico Society for Technology in Education (NMSTE)
- Regional Educational Cooperatives Association (RECA)
- Southeastern New Mexico Educational Resource Center (SNMERC)
- New Mexico Council of Administrators of Special Education (NMCASE)

NEW MEXICO

The Graduation Effect: Every Student's Potential to Impact a Community

What are the short- and long-term benefits to New Mexico of a 90% high school graduation rate? The findings below are based on the Class of 2015, which reported 17,740 high school graduates—a graduation rate of 68.6%.

If New Mexico's high school graduation rate had reached **90%**



The state would have gained **5,530** additional graduates



Of these additional graduates, **54%** likely would have enrolled in higher education



These graduates would have earned **\$62.6 million** annually in additional income

Within **10** years

a new graduate in New Mexico who completes at least an associate's degree likely will earn \$11,500 more a year than a high school dropout

This additional income means more money flowing into state and local economies annually ...



\$49.4 million increase in spending



\$130 million increase in home sales



\$3.4 million increase in state and local taxes



\$10.1 million increase in car sales

In 2015

62% vs. **70%**
hs dropouts vs. some college+
owned a home in New Mexico¹

... leading to greater opportunities for New Mexico.

\$93.2 million



in economic growth

150



new jobs created



\$54.6 million in health-care cost savings to the state

In 2015

78% vs. **54%**
hs dropouts vs. hs graduates

had public health insurance or no health coverage in New Mexico²

What Can You Do to Help?

Getting more students to graduate from high school and preparing them to succeed in college and a career requires the collective effort of educators, parents, business executives, policymakers, community members, and nonprofit leaders.

1 VISIT

Visit impact.all4ed.org to learn more about the economic impact of a high school diploma. Watch short videos of people sharing their success stories about overcoming personal and educational challenges in pursuit of a high school diploma.



ALLIANCE FOR
EXCELLENT EDUCATION



THE GraduationEffect
impactall4ed.org

2 SHARE

Share this data with your state and district leaders to support the development and implementation of policies and approaches to increase high school graduation rates.



3 ADVOCATE

Advocate for high-quality programs that adequately prepare young people for their futures; allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously; integrate career and technical education with rigorous academics; and offer internship opportunities, real-world learning, and work-based experiences.

What the Data Represents

Annual earnings. Additional combined annual income that new graduates likely would have earned after completing high school, accounting for additional postsecondary education attainment. Though subject to other policies around equal pay, meaningful earnings empower the individual to sustain basic needs and invest in resources that can break the cycle of poverty for future generations.

Economic growth. Annual increase in gross state/regional product, which is the value of all goods and services produced within a state or local economy.

Federal, state, and local tax revenues. Average annual income gained by governments through taxation by the midpoint of new graduates' careers. By earning higher incomes and spending and investing more dollars, new graduates contribute more money to local, state, and federal tax bases. These additional tax dollars support public needs, such as sustaining national parks; restoring state and local infrastructure; and providing high-quality education, health, and social services.

Health-care cost savings. Cumulative health-care cost savings over the lifetime of new graduates. This indicator considers the cumulative number of new high school graduates who likely would not enroll in Medicaid because they have health insurance through a personal or employer-provided insurance plan. Consequently, when young people graduate from high school, society benefits from projected savings that result from workers' improved productivity at work, decreased health problems, and freedom from pain and suffering caused by untreated illness and disease.

Increased auto sales. Additional dollars spent on vehicle purchases—new or pre-owned—by new high school graduates in the average year given their increased wages. While the amount these high school graduates spend when buying a car is important, equally important is the mobility these graduates gain that allows them to seek work (and potentially better work) beyond their immediate neighborhoods.

Increased home sales. Cumulative increase in dollars spent on home purchases by new high school graduates by the midpoint of their careers. This is based on average mortgage values in the state or local market. Money spent on home purchases fuels the economy as well as the tax base that local governments use to fund schools and other public services. Homeownership, a proxy for housing stability, also is shown to raise educational outcomes for students from low-income families as student mobility between schools decreases.³

Increased spending. Likely amount of combined additional annual disposable income available to new graduates given their increased wages. This figure is based on state and local consumption trends. Consumer spending benefits both the individual and collective economies. Since high school graduates earn higher salaries than high school dropouts, they can spend more on shelter, food, childcare, and education for themselves and their families. Collectively, spending drives innovation and progress, creates jobs, and has the potential to promote growth of local small businesses.

New jobs. Cumulative number of additional jobs likely to be created by increased spending and investment by new graduates by the midpoint of their careers. New jobs contribute to greater opportunities and lower rates of unemployment in a state or local economy.

¹ Data about homeownership among high school graduates and dropouts obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder website, <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml> (accessed August 28, 2017).

² Data about health insurance coverage among high school graduates and dropouts obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder website, <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml> (accessed August 28, 2017).

³ National Association of Realtors®, *Social Benefits of Homeownership and Stable Housing* (Chicago: Author, 2012), <https://www.nar.realtor/reports/social-benefits-of-homeownership-and-stable-housing>.

The above projections were generated by the Alliance for Excellent Education using an economic model developed by Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. and updated by Tripp Umbach, all through generous support from State Farm®.

The Alliance for Excellent Education is a Washington, DC-based national policy, practice, and advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that all students, particularly those traditionally underserved, graduate from high school ready for success in college, work, and citizenship. www.all4ed.org

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Istation

Stan's Straight Talk Continued from page 4

- “Open the door costs” must be calculated and added to the FY 18 funding levels in the SEG. These include the tier migration costs that districts will realize as a part of the three-tiered licensure system. These increases are “cost to do business as required by Law” and are not considered an increase above the base for public schools. Other open the door costs must include the increases in premiums for both liability and health insurance. No further reduction of benefits will be supported in legislation.
- The State of New Mexico must invest in solutions to improving the recruitment and retention of teachers and administrators. The crisis of qualified candidates must be recognized and provided for in all legislation forthcoming.
- Funding of dual credit programs must be sufficient to assure success with our post-secondary partners
- The survivability of local districts is paramount to assure that rural districts can thrive. The State must invest more fully in Regional Educational Cooperatives as important service points for rural collaboration.

New Vision for Public Education in New Mexico

As we work towards focusing our vision on the core elements of our public schools, I am suggesting that we focus on the following “Major Conceptual Themes”:

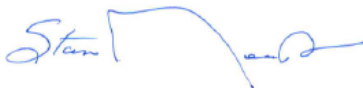
- Why a new direction and why now
- Engaging the digital generation
- New learning standards for a new era
- From misuse of standardized tests to unleashing the power of assessment
- Accountability that inspires
- Transforming our schools from bureaucracies to learning organizations
- Saying no to remote control

This work is reflective of assistance that the Public Education Visioning Institute did with the Texas Association of School Administrators. While many of us have been reluctant to “copy Texas”, I have found that those of you who have reviewed all or part of this work are inspired by the effort. It is a work that is found at the following link: [Creating a New Vision for Public Education in Texas](#)

I want to thank our colleague Superintendent Greg Rodriguez from Carlsbad for providing us the link and insight into the process used in Texas.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for your service to our New Mexico Public Schools and wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stan Rounds", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stan Rounds, Executive Director

2017 New Mexico Digital Learning Conference

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sign-up to today to sponsor the 2017 New Mexico Digital Learning Conference (DLC). Hosted by *eLearn Institute*, *New Mexico Society for Technology in Education (NMSTE)* and *Albuquerque Public Schools (APS)*, this year's conference will build on the tremendous success of the 2016 DLC and will *focus on leveraging digital learning solutions and practices to drive authentic and individualized learning in schools and classrooms.*

Conference Details

Anticipated Attendance: 250-300 teachers, administrators and classroom technology support staff

Where: Albuquerque Academy

Friday December 1st

5:00pm to 7:30p, including:

- Opening Reception
- Sponsor Round Tables
- Sponsor Stage Talks
- Opening Keynote

Saturday December 2nd

8:00am to 5:00pm, including:

- Breakfast and Lunch
- Sponsor Round Tables
- Sponsor Stage Talks
- Breakout Sessions
- Keynotes

Sunday December 3rd

9:00am to 12:15am

- 3-hour Training Workshops

Sponsorship Packages

Platinum (limit 3) - \$4,000 – Includes*:

- 15-minute Keynote Speaker Slot
- 30-minute breakout session
- 3 Round Tables and 2 Stage Talks
- Platinum Sponsor Recognition on all materials
- \$500 discount on Workshop Add-on
- 4 Tickets to Conference

Gold (limit 6) - \$2,500 – Includes*:

- 30-minute breakout session
- 2 Round Tables and 1 Stage Talk
- Gold Sponsor Recognition on all materials
- \$250 discount on Workshop Add-on
- 3 Tickets to Conference

Silver - \$1,000 – Includes*:

- 1 Round Table and 1 Stage Talk
- Silver Sponsor Recognition on all materials
- 2 Tickets to Conference

Workshop Add-on (limit 4) - \$1,500 – Includes:

- 3-hour workshop with space for up to 25 attendees
- Must also be a Platinum, Gold, or Silver Sponsor

**All sponsors will also receive a contact list of all attendees following the conference.*

Contact Jeff Lunsford, the 2017 DLC Coordinator, for more information and to reserve your space today at Jeff@Lunjj.com or 505-369-9323.

Continued on page 15

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At **Houghton Mifflin Harcourt™**, we know teachers because we are teachers. We understand that teachers need a partner to support them with new programs, practices, and technology changes to make a real impact on students.

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NMCEL

Executive Board Meetings:

December 7, 2017, NMAA Bldg.

January 11, 2018, Legislative Primer (Santa Fe)

February 15, 2018, Talking Communities

April 5, 2018, NMAA Bldg.

Annual Retreat

June 4-5, 2018, TBD

Summer Conference

July 25-27, 2018 - Embassy Suites

Upcoming Events

- **ASE State Lobbyist Meeting: November 9-10, 2017: Atlanta, GA**
- **AASA Running the Store: November 29 - December 2, 2017: Key West, FL**

AASPA

Human Capital Leadership Summit – November 7 – 8, 2017: Albuquerque, NM

AASPA Personnel Administrators Boot Camp – January 25 – 26, 2018: Savannah, GA

NMASBO

2018 Winter Conference - February 21– 23, 2018
Embassy Suites, Albuquerque

Spring Budget Workshop - April 4 - 6, 2018
Hotel Albuquerque, Albuquerque

NMSSA

December 1, 2017, Embassy Suites, Albuquerque

February 9, 2018 El Dorado Hotel, Santa Fe

June 1, 2018 TBD (Law Conference)

NMSSA Executive Council

November 15, 2017, NMAA Building

January 16, 2018, NMAA Building

AASA

National Conference, Nashville, TN - February 15-17, 2018

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Information available at the U. S. Department of Education website and at the NM Public Education Department. **Click images below.**

ESSA Stakeholder Engagement

The Public Education Department will also co-host regional community meetings throughout the state this fall to solicit input from the community to contribute to the development of New Mexico's plan to support schools and student learning. Meetings will be hosted in the following communities on the following dates:

- November 15th – Las Cruces

To register to attend an event in your community, visit the **New Mexico First** website.



**U. S. Department
of Education**

2017 New Mexico Digital Learning Conference

A Better Way for Sponsors to Engage with Conference Attendees

We've replaced the traditional table-top displays with opportunities for sponsors to engage with conference attendees in a more direct and personal way , including:

Sponsor Round Tables

Engage with conference attendees in meaningful, small-group discussions at your own Round Table(s) throughout the event on Friday evening and all-day Saturday. How it works:

- Round Table talks are held in the dining hall which is central to all conference activities and is where all food and beverages will be served throughout the day.
- As a sponsor, you will be assigned one or more Round Tables in the dining hall.
 - Yes, the tables really are round!
- Your assigned tables will be clearly labeled with your organization's name & logo.
- You lead the discussion at your table – the goal is to engage in meaningful and constructive dialogue directly between you and the conference attendees.
- We drive attendance – conference attendee participation at each Round Table earns them an entry into our extensive raffle drawing.
- Setup is easy – bring handouts and giveaway items to distribute at your table – no complex displays or demos needed.

Sponsor Stage Talks

Deliver presentations & demonstrations on an Open Stage in the dining hall Friday evening and throughout the day Saturday. How it works:

- The Open Stage(s) will be setup in the dining hall which is central to all conference activities and is where all food & beverages will be served throughout the day.
- As a sponsor, you be assigned one or more 15-minute timeslots to present on an Open Stage.
- There will be only one Stage Talk going on at any given time.
- Each Open Stage will have seating for 15-20 attendees and will be setup with a projector, screen, speaker and microphone for your presentation.
- We drive attendance – conference attendee participation at each Stage Talk earns them an entry into our extensive raffle drawing.
- Besides 15 minutes for your presentation, you will be allowed 15 minutes for setup and 5 minutes for teardown.

Contact Jeff Lunsford, the 2017 DLC Coordinator, for more information and to reserve your space today at Jeff@Lunjj.com or 505-369-9323.

Continued on page 20



THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE THEY GROW


Are your students on track to graduate and prepared for college? New Mexico schools using MAP® Growth™ already know the answer—and have a roadmap for guiding students toward success.


Find out how you can use MAP Growth data to forecast college readiness, predict performance on high-stakes tests, and prepare students for bright futures—contact NWEA™ Account Executive Ashley Dobbs at Ashley.Dobbs@NWEA.org.


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B i t e s i z e

 The Public Education Department plans to use a \$20 million federal grant to create local literacy connection teams to integrate evidence-based literacy programs in district schools and charter schools. The department anticipates the grant, to be distributed over three years, would pay for services for 30,000 students in 12 districts and charter schools.

 July revenues for the lottery tuition fund totaled almost \$3.2 million, 4 percent more than June but 26 percent less than July 2016. August revenues totaled more than \$4.8 million. Year-to-date proceeds total almost \$8 million, about 12 percent more than the \$7.05 million in proceeds from the same period last year.

 The Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force is considering including teacherages, housing for teachers and school administrators on school sites, in the capital outlay funding process. Many rural school districts use teacherages as recruitment tools. The Public School Facilities Authority is compiling a report on the age, use, and location of an estimated 598 teacherages in the state.



i n f o r m E D

a publication of the Legislative Education Study Committee

Senator Mimi Stewart, Chair / Representative Stephanie Garcia Richard, Vice Chair / Rachel S. Gudgel, Director / October 2017

From the Chairwoman

Political Education

The biggest problem with the Public Education Department's suspended push to adopt politically tweaked science education standards was the potential impact on New Mexico's students and its education system, but that wasn't the only problem.

Adoption of the weakened standards, which the department said it would rewrite after hours of testimony from hundreds of opponents, would have left New Mexico children unprepared to compete for jobs in STEM – science, technology, engineering, and math – and would have dragged New Mexico schools further behind.

The department has announced it will restore evolution, the age of the earth, and climate change to the standards – great, if it follows through – but that was only the biggest problem. The department must still answer for the obvious political influence in their writing, the undisclosed process that led to their proposal, and their rushed public airing.

Let's be clear: The department cannibalized the national Next Generation Science Standards – the collaborative effort of educators in 26 states and numerous national science organizations – because the exclusions conveniently line up with the governor's politics. The department argued the removal of those scientifically sound principles, along with the baffling insertion of oil and gas promotion, would give districts flexibility – a disingenuous argument from a department that has implemented mandatory, significantly disputed school and teacher evaluation systems.

The politically adjusted standards, called the NM STEM-Ready Science Standards, were the product of an unexplained process and developed despite overwhelming endorsement of the Next Gen standards from a department-appointed panel of educators and scientists four years ago, a department-convened focus group of around 85 educational professionals two years ago, and the Legislature this year. (The governor vetoed the bipartisan bill.) In addition, while the Next Gen standards have been publicly available since 2013, the NM STEM-Ready proposal was released last month and got one public hearing.

New Mexico badly needs to update its science education curriculum, last updated in 2009 and unfit for today's students. It should, in fact, adopt the strongly endorsed, inexplicable ignored, Next Gen standards, as written. Unfortunately, the process so far clearly shows petty politics have taken precedence over sound education.

Senator Mimi Stewart

Local Districts Question PED Special Ed Figures

School district officials say the Public Education Department has been unclear on how it concluded local school agencies underspent from \$1,900 to \$32,000 on special education, LESC analysts report.

The department notified some school districts in September that it had reconciled local special education spending from FY11 through FY15 and found some shortfalls on special education "maintenance of effort" spending, the level of spending needed to draw federal funds.

It is unclear if the department reconciled charter school spending. While more than 50 school districts told LESC staff they received notices, none of the charter schools LESC contacted had been notified.

While the shortfalls are relatively small, school district special education directors have expressed concerns over inconsistencies in department calculations of local MOE and poor communication on how it calculated the liabilities. The delay in reconciling special education funding over several years, contradictory information in past years, and outstanding MOE issues at the state level also

contribute to confusion.

LESC is scheduled to hear a report on the department's reconciliation and district concerns at 9 a.m. on October 24.

To comply with Part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA-B, local agencies must spend the same amount overall or the same amount per child, no matter if the source of funds is state or local.

Under federal rules, local school agencies can reduce special education spending in certain circumstances, with conditions including certain changes in personnel and student enrollment and need. Federal rules require state officials to monitor local compliance and determine if the local school agency is eligible for an exception.

The department's September notices to districts did not contain details on the causes or fiscal years of the liabilities or how districts could confirm the amounts. Although the department indicated it would send a follow-up letter with an explanation the first week of October, school district officials have not yet received

continued on back

Schools Launch Rockets for Science Ed

High school students from southeast New Mexico are building rockets to learn science in a program organizers say teaches design, analysis, critical thinking, reasoning, problem solving, leadership, and innovation skills.

The first year of SystemsGo New Mexico, administered by the Pecos Valley Regional Educational Cooperative, culminated with an April rocket launch in Jal with teams from Loving, Lake Arthur, Hobbs, Lovington, and Carlsbad, as well as Jal.

Teachers and students from all those schools except Carlsbad talked about the science, technology, engineering, and math – STEM – education program

with the committee in September.

Students worked in teams of about five to 10 and drew the designs, computerized blueprints, ran simulations, made revisions, and assembled the rockets. On launch day, students were responsible for a pre-launch checklist and for solving problems on the fly.

Teachers testifying before the committee emphasized instructors take a hands-off approach, leaving it to the students to find answers.

The group said the program has drawn wide community involvement, with local restaurants catering the launch event, local fire and rescue teams using the downed rockets for

retrieval drills, and local law enforcement managing traffic for the launches.

Start-up costs for the program, developed by a private company, can run from about \$5,000 to about \$6,000 per grade, depending on the grades involved, for equipment, training, curriculum, and license and launch fees. Subsequent years cost less.

SystemsGo, which also works with schools in Texas, provides classroom and launch support, in addition to teacher training and curricula.

The company says the program is endorsed by NASA and certified by the Space Foundation. Advanced students work with research universities and launch a vehicle from White Sands Missile Range capable of carrying a 35-pound payload to 100,000 feet.

First-level students design and test vehicles to lift a payload of one pound to a height of one mile, while second-level students work on rockets that can travel faster than the speed of sound, or faster than a mile in 4.69 seconds.

SystemsGo New Mexico has scheduled its next year-end launch for April 21, 2018, again in Jal.

Local Special Ed Spending Under Review

continued from front

follow-up correspondence.

However, meeting minutes of the New Mexico Council of Administrators of Special Education indicate the department hired certified public accountants to reconcile local MOE spending because of inaccuracies in the earlier calculations by department staff, since let go.

The department has told districts they must repay the federal government for the shortfalls; however, U.S. Department of Education staff advised LESC analysts that the liability for any shortfalls lies with the department, not the local school districts.

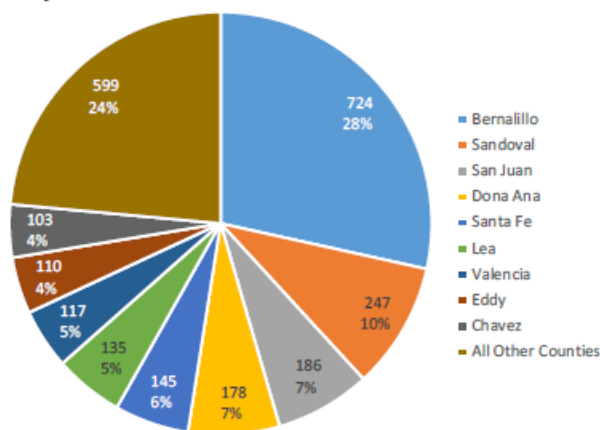
While the department can seek repayment from local school districts, federal officials are uncertain if a state can force a district to repay. A state department cannot withhold IDEA-B funds for failure to pay.

The state has had its own problems with special education MOE. The U.S. Department of Education has found the state owes \$85.7 million for MOE shortfalls from FY11 to FY14.

While the state has been negotiating with federal officials, department officials have yet to announce a settlement.

Virtual Schools Draw Out-of-District Students

County of Residence for Virtual Charter School Students, FY18



New Mexico's three virtual charter schools – New Mexico Virtual Academy, New Mexico Connections Academy, and Pecos Connections Academy – are based in San Juan, Santa Fe, and Eddy counties but draw many of their students from outside their school districts. Charter school authorizers get an administrative fee equal to 2 percent of the charter school's program funds, state funds allocated to the school through the enrollment-based funding formula. As a result, districts with district-chartered virtual charter schools can get funding for students outside their districts, creating an incentive for districts to authorize virtual charter schools.

i n f o r m E D

October 2017

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Marit Rogne, Staff Editor | Helen Gaussoin, Editor

Featured Video

Colleagues:

Please enjoy the videos below, I have chosen them specifically for this months newsletter.

Best Regards:

Stan

NMCEL Executive Director

[November Featured Video #1](#)

[November Featured Video #2](#)

"The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals."

— [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)



NMCEL Board Minutes in Brief

October 30, 2017

- Meeting was called to order
- Board members approved the Agenda
- Introduction of Board Members/Recognition of Affiliates, Announcements

Discussion Items:

- Legislative Platform Discussion w NMCEL & NMSSA Exec Comm.
- Update: LESC and LFC Meetings
- NMCEL Committees & Support
- NM Public Education Vision Document
- New Affiliate: NM Facility Managers & Operations
- Update on Partnerships/Corporate Sponsors
- Update on calls with the Secretary

Closed Executive Session: Personnel Matters

Action Items:

- Approval of the September 8, 2017 Minutes
- Approval of Financial Statements through October 2017
- Approval of New Affiliate
- Approval of Personnel Matters

Reports:

- Affiliate Reports



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December 1 -3, 2017, Albuquerque Academy

Hosted by eLearn Institute, NMSTE and APS

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Add Workshop (Optional):	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Hour Workshop on Sunday 12/3/17 (\$1,500)		
Total Amount Selected:	\$ _____		
Contact Information			
	Website: _____		
Primary Contact	Name:	Title:	
	Phone Number: _____		
	Email Address: _____		
	Address: _____		
	City:	State:	Zip:
Alternate Contact	Name:	Title:	
	Phone Number: _____		
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Acceptance of Terms by Authorized Representative:			
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Continued on page 22



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December 1 -3, 2017, Albuquerque Academy

Hosted by eLearn Institute, NMSTE and APS

Sponsorship Application

Sponsorship Terms and Conditions:

- The New Mexico Society for Technology in Education (NMSTE) is the lead organizer for this conference and all inquiries should be directed to their attention (see below).
- The New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders (NMCEL), is acting as the fiscal agent for NMSTE as well as this event and all sponsorship fees shall be paid to NMCEL.
- See the attached flyer “2017 New Mexico Digital Learning Conference Sponsorship Opportunities” for details on the conference, sponsorship levels and sponsor benefits. This document along with the attached flyer describes all the benefits provided to sponsors and no other benefits are implicitly or explicitly included.
 - Stage Talks are held in an open area stage in the dining hall.
 - Workshops and Breakout Sessions are held in classroom settings or similar.
- Once a sponsorship is confirmed, all sponsorship fees are non-cancellable and non-refundable unless the conference is materially changed or cancelled by NMSTE.
- Sponsorship fees are due within 30 days of confirmation and no later than 11/20/2017. At NMSTE’s discretion, late payments may result in the suspension or termination of some or all sponsorship benefits until payment is received. Suspension and/or termination of benefits due to late payment shall not reduce or eliminate the sponsor’s obligation to pay all agreed upon sponsorship fees in full.
- If the conference is materially changed by NMSTE, sponsors will be given the opportunity to revise their sponsorship level or cancel their sponsorship and will receive a full refund of the difference between the original sponsorship fee and the modified fee.
- Sponsor will receive a pro-rated refund of sponsorship fees if actual attendance level falls below 150 total attendees.
- Sponsors must provide all requested marketing materials (e.g. logos, company descriptions) no later than 11/10/2017 to guarantee inclusion in printed conference packets.
- Sponsors business names, logo, website and email contact information (if provided) will be included in all marketing materials.

For Further Information

Contact Jeff Lunsford at 505-369-9323 or Jeff@Lunji.com.

Continued from pages 12, 15 & 20



LFC Newsletter

A publication of the

Legislative Finance Committee
Representative Patricia Lundstrom, Chairwoman
Senator John Arthur Smith, Vice Chairman
David Abbey, Director

Volume 18 Issue 4

October 2017

From the Chairwoman

The More Things Change

New Mexico was a different place when the Legislative Finance Committee was created 60 years ago, and the Legislature a different body.

As noted in the 1957 session report of the temporary panel that was to become LFC, the state was changing from a rural, agricultural economy to an urban, industrial one. Indeed, in its arguments for an alternating 30-day session focused on the budget – the Legislature met biennially until 1964 – the committee noted the \$194 million in state revenues in the 1956-1957 fiscal year made New Mexico state government “big business” and no longer capable of forecasting revenues two years in advance.

The Legislature looked a little different in 1957, as well, with just one woman among the then 98 members, compared with nearly three dozen today, and with a smaller share of Hispanic legislators than now. Not surprisingly, the first LFC chairman, Anderson Carter, was a white, non-Hispanic man, although the first LFC director was a woman.

But, in many ways, the Legislative Finance Committee is much the same on this 60th anniversary. Within six months of its creation, it was holding aggressive hearings on falsified financial records at the National Guard, and it followed up with successful legislation. The press quickly perceived the committee as strong and effective.

Its first reports raised concerns about using severance tax revenue for short-term projects, the lack of data and performance standards for state agencies, inequitable funding for public schools, the proliferation of colleges, tax policy that does not deter economic development, and the earmarking of 85 percent of state revenues.

We’ve made progress on many of those issues – severance tax is now deposited into a permanent fund, performance measures and data collection are mandated in state law, general fund has replaced local property taxes for public school funding, and far fewer state funds are committed to specific uses.

But some concerns, apparently, are timeless. We still discuss equity and access and how best to serve our communities and our state. We are, like all the committee members before us, committed to making government the most effective and efficient it can be.

*Representative Patricia Lundstrom
Chairwoman*

The committee will celebrate its 60th anniversary with presentations and refreshments starting at 2:30 p.m. October 24.

College Efficiency Important to Continued Affordability

New Mexico colleges and universities offer students broad access to higher education at some of the lowest tuition rates in the country, but slow growth in state support and revenue declines because of dropping enrollment could mean tuition increases that will put college out of reach for many New Mexicans, LFC evaluators conclude.

Staff is scheduled to present the program evaluation, *Higher Education Cost Drivers and Cost Savings*, to the committee at 8:30 a.m. on October 24.

The evaluation notes, because of falling enrollment, some of the state’s 24 colleges and universities have prepared programs and space for students who never materialized. It concludes that, while some schools are working on “right-sizing” their operations, others have become less efficient as enrollment has dropped.

When compared with other schools, those schools spend excessive amounts on executive management and overhead and underperform on student success.

New Mexico spends the greatest share

of taxpayer dollars on higher education in the nation, although the share of the general fund budget going to higher education has dropped recently. State support for higher education totaled \$848.5 million in FY16.

The governing boards of the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, Eastern New Mexico University, and Central New Mexico Community College oversee 78 percent of all state higher education spending, making those boards responsible for driving any efficiencies for most of the state’s college system.

Three of those boards oversee branch college systems, which do not coordinate services, the evaluation says.

The evaluation concludes differences in college efficiency are the result of a lack of structures and incentives for statewide change.

While the state Higher Education Department has provided leadership on academic progress, it has little authority over college governance or business operations, the report says.

Judicial Spending Grows Faster than Cases

Despite financial constraints in most agencies, funding for the state judicial system – the state courts, district attorneys, and public defender – has steadily increased while only the caseload of the public defender has grown, LFC staff report.

The LFC hearing brief on judicial caseloads and funding, presented to the committee in August and [posted online](#), finds appropriations to the judicial agencies have increased an average of 2 percent a year, while the number of cases entering the system grew an average of 1 percent.

The number of cases assigned to the Public Defender grew almost 9 percent between FY14 and FY17, while cases referred to district attorneys statewide stayed mostly flat, and the total for the district courts declined.

The total number of civil and criminal cases in district courts dropped from 400,000 in FY14 to 350,000 in FY17, mostly because of a significant drop in the 2nd Judicial District in Bernalillo County. The number of new and

reopened cases in that district court has dropped by almost 25 percent over the last 10 years.

While the case management order in the 2nd Judicial District, which sets deadlines for certain felony cases to go to trial, has been blamed for putting more criminals on the street, LFC reports the 2nd Judicial District has dismissed a smaller share of cases due to time rules than the 8th and 13th judicial districts, which do not have the order.

The district attorney reports just 1.1 percent of cases were dismissed in FY17 due to time rules, compared with 30 percent of cases dismissed overall.

While the case order has been credited with eliminating a 2,600 case backlog of cases at least 18 months old, the district attorney also saw a 253 percent increase in trials in 2015 and 2016.

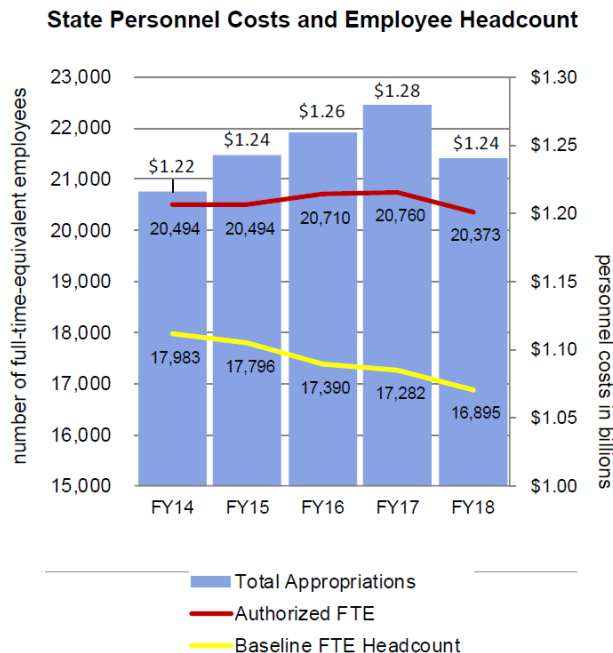
In addition, the district attorney argues the potential for a time-limit dismissal discourages defense attorneys from working with the state and 10-day time limits on indictments are reducing prosecutions.

Employee Rolls Drop

The number of state employees has declined over the past decade, down more than 2,000 since FY11, while personnel funding, for both salaries and benefits, has bounced up and down and the number of positions authorized in the budget has been relatively flat.

Some state agencies, including the Corrections and Health departments, report high vacancy rates, despite efforts to boost pay to attract and keep employees.

During the fiscal crisis of the last several years, some agencies used vacancy savings to cover costs in other areas. However, agencies were generating vacancy savings at unusually high rates before budgets were cut.



LFC Newsletter

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 Staff Editor - Travis Dulany Writer, Editor - Helen Gaussoin

Questions, comments: 505-986-4550
www.nmlegis.gov/lfc

Please contact Adreana Lujan at adreana.lujan@nmlegis.gov if you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically.

Legislative Finance Committee
 325 Don Gaspar Street Ste101
 Santa Fe NM 87501

On the Table

BLM Lease Nets About \$65M for State

A \$131 million oil lease sale by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management will mean about \$64 million for the state. The August revenue forecast assumed about \$40 million in lease sale proceeds. However, the sale is currently being challenged by the Wilderness Society and WildEarth Guardians. A similar protest resulted in an eight-month delay in the receipt of revenues from the September 2016 BLM lease sale.

Jackson Lawsuit Relief Ruling Expected

State Health Department officials expect a decision in the next six months on a request for an end to federal oversight of services for the disabled. The federal district court in New Mexico a year ago rejected the state's request to end the federal court supervision required under the 30-year-old Jackson class action lawsuit, but the state appealed. The state argued before the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver in September it will never be able to meet all the hundreds of conditions in the suit and is no longer in violation of the U.S. Constitution or the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. Even if the federal court ends the suit, the state might continue to have civil obligations to the disabled plaintiffs under agreements related to the suit.

CNM Sees Big Jump in Awards

The number of certificates and degrees awarded by Central New Mexico Community College jumped 60 percent in the last school year. The increase is almost entirely attributable to a new certificate program that grants a "general studies" or "health, wellness, and public safety" certificate after a student earns more than 30 core curriculum hours. Because some funding is tied to the number of degrees and certificates awarded, the increase could result in a funding increase for the school.

Meat-Packing Plant Gets State Funds

The Economic Development Department awarded USA Beef \$400,000 in Local Economic Development Act funds for what will be the state's only meat-packing plant. The Roswell plant will employ approximately 57 people.

Capital Outlay Requests Exceed Funds

State agencies have submitted \$829 million in requests for construction projects and equipment. In August, capital outlay severance tax bond capacity was estimated at \$116 million, and the capacity of general obligation bonds, which must be approved by voters, was estimated at \$164.2 million.

Transitions

Elisa Walker-Moran has resigned as chief economist at the Taxation and Revenue Department.

Updates, Information and Resources



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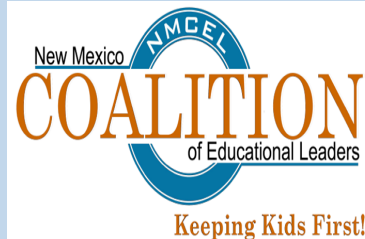
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- STOVEN Construction - JOC
- Vigil & Associates Architectural Group - Design
- Weil Construction - JOC

For more information, contact Gary or Steve at High Plains REC (575-445-7090)
or visit our procurement page at www.hprec.com

What Legacy will we leave our children in New Mexico? WE will define that by our actions and inactions. Together we WILL define the future!



Mindfulness

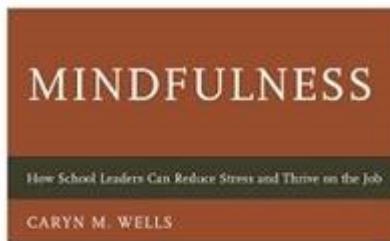
How School Leaders Can Reduce Stress and Thrive on the Job

Caryn Wells

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Working Toward Success

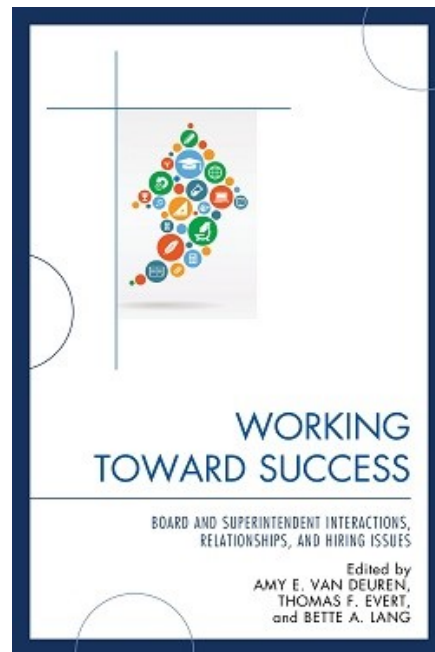
Board and Superintendent Interactions, Relationships and Hiring Issues

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The importance of positive board/superintendent relationships cannot be understated. The need to balance competing political pressures to create the best possible learning opportunities for students is ever present. Most importantly, board/superintendent relationships should be cultivated with openness and transparency among each other and the public.