

MARCH 2013

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AASA Recognizes E. David Atencio

New Mexico Superintendent of the Year



*Superintendent Atencio is congratulated by
AASA President, Benny Gooden*

by E. David Atencio

What an incredible experience. If you have not been to an AASA conference, you simply must make it a priority! From time to time we attend conferences and “struggle” to get something from them that would be pertinent for our districts and ourselves. The AASA conference is not one of these! Everywhere I looked and in every direction I went, there were sessions that pertained directly to our state, my district, and to me personally. I shared with one of my Board Members that for the first time in several years, I left the conference with a sense of energy, renewed enthusiasm, and yes...purpose! Every session I attended spoke directly to my situation. I would venture to say that you would have felt the same way.

Continued on page 5

Special Points of Interest

- **Legislative Session ends March 16, Santa Fe**
- **NMASBO 2013 Spring Budget Workshop, April 3-5, Hotel Albuquerque**
- **NMCSA Board Meeting, April 18, CES, Albuquerque**
- **Quality NM Learning Summit, April 22 - 23, Hyatt Regency, Albuquerque**
- **NMASCD 2013 NM Educator's Conference, June 4-5, Del Norte High School**
- **NMCSA Annual Conference, July 24-26, Hyatt Regency**

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“...there are several ...issues brewing on the national front, not the least of which is the impending threat of sequestration.

Rendon's Reflections

Dear Colleagues:

The final day of the legislative session is just about two weeks away. Compared to what we've seen in the previous couple of years, this session has been relatively quiet; we've not seen the amount of rancor and negativity that had become the norm of previous sessions. It's difficult to say if it's because people are tired of the battle or if they are making more of an effort to seek compromise. Either way, many have worked hard during the session to keep the needs of education at the forefront of their attention. In a few weeks we'll learn how budgets and programs will be impacted for the next year.

Meanwhile, there are several other issues brewing on the national front, not the least of which is the impending threat of sequestration. By the time you read this article, we should have a better idea of how and when funding cuts will affect New Mexico. What we do know is that cuts to Impact Aid funding will strike states immediately, meaning in the next few weeks. All other cuts to federal programs will take effect in the 2013-14 SY. In addition, because we have military bases in our state, the cuts coming to those areas will also affect schools. Cuts to unemployment benefits, child care services and food subsidies will also affect our New Mexico families. All this as a reminder to ask your staff to be vigilant about behavior changes both among children and adults. We all understand how the stress of lack of money and food affect our families in normal times, and now some of those same families may have added worries. Hopefully, members of Congress will realize the need to reach a compromise and avoid cuts that will harm our families and our schools. Even though it becomes increasingly difficult, I know that as school leaders you will do all you can to help students and staff get through these difficult times. You are the real heroes in all of this, and I applaud your efforts as you continue to do more with less.

Finally, we at NMCSA, are excited about our upcoming conference in July and hope that you are making plans to attend. We have two dynamic keynote presentations: one by Rachel's Challenge, the family who lost their daughter at Columbine, and the other by Dr. Yong Zhao, an accomplished author and presenter who will invigorate us as we prepare for a new school year. More information on the conference is found elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you have not been to Santa Fe during this legislative session, I encourage you to make the trip, listen to the bills in our education committees and talk with your legislators. They really are a hard working group of people who are faced with many challenges and pressure from many sides as they attempt to make the best decisions for all the people in our state. Like the rest of us, they need to know that their efforts are appreciated.

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Rendon's Reflections cont'd.

In a few weeks, we will welcome Spring in this beautiful state of ours. With the rebirth of new plants and trees, many of us experience a new sense of hope and optimism. I wish you well during the upcoming testing season and hope that you get a few days of well deserved rest during your spring break.

Sincerely,



An Overview of the 2013 Legislative Session to Date

Gloria O. Rendon, Theresa T. Saiz

The 2013 legislative session began with changes in leadership and changes in the chairmanship of both the Senate and House Education Committees. In addition, an unusually large number of new legislators means that many people are on a steep learning curve. The session has been both interesting and yet uneventful when it comes to bills affecting education. Unlike the past two sessions where high profile education bills consumed the time and energy of many legislators and educators, this session has had few such pieces of legislation. Lately, the biggest news grabber has been the confirmation hearings for Secretary Designate Hanna Skandera, going so far as to make national news as noted on the blog of Diane Ravitch, an educator who has expressed strong opinions about the use and misuse of standardized testing.

The maintenance of effort (MOE) issue with regard to the funding provided by the state for special education continues to be a bone of contention. The current proposed budget contains two different line items to address MOE deficiencies for both the current and past years. The state's lack of knowledge about the exact amount owed by the state and whether or not New Mexico will be granted a waiver has to weigh heavily on the minds of legislators who must present a balanced budget before the legislature adjourns on March 16. Add to the state's trou-

bles the national issue of sequestration, and it's easy to see why we may be headed for additional budget woes down the road.

Meanwhile, well meaning legislators are doing what they can to provide for a constitutional amendment which would keep the distribution to public education from the permanent land grant fund at 5.5% beyond the 2016 SY. Others are working on a bill to assure the solvency of the educators' and other public employees' pension funds. While one ERB bill passed on the House floor, it still has to clear the Senate before going to the governor. There are also bills to study the A-F system and the Teacher and Principal evaluation system.

With only a few days left before the end of the session, it may be a good thing that there aren't too many high profile education bills. Our public schools need some time to implement and integrate the legislative mandates from the past two years. The coming months can serve everyone well in adjusting to the new evaluation system, the implementation of the common core state standards and preparation for a new assessment. We'll provide a summary of the legislation that affects schools in the next few weeks. Meanwhile, the nmlegis.gov website is an excellent resource to keep track of all legislative activities.

Aspiring Superintendents' Academy

The Aspiring Superintendents' Academy (ASA) is entering its fifth year of working with administrators who aspire to become superintendents in New Mexico school districts. This comprehensive and beneficial program allows participants to experience a curriculum designed to provide them with the requisites for success in a superintendent's position. Participants in Cohort 4 were able to interact with experts covering an array of topics from building budgets to building solid relationships with board members and their communities. Their program of study will be completed in June of this year. Some of this year's participants are interviewing for a superintendent position in New Mexico. One of the participants, Lesa Dodd, was recently hired by the Dexter School Board to take over the position for the 2013-2014 school year due to the retirement of its current superintendent. Past participants who have since become superintendents around New Mexico include Travis Dempsey, Cloudcroft; Susan Wilkinson-Davis, Vaughn; Betsy Ward, Animas. This year's program was facilitated by Barbara Vigil-Lowder, NMCSA Professional Development and Leadership Coordinator.

Applications are now available for the 2013-2014 school year. Interested individuals are required to complete the application and submit it

electronically to NMCSA at nmcsa@unm.edu. A panel of administrators including members of previous cohorts will interview prospective candidates. Applications are due by close of business on April 30, 2013 and applicants will be selected and notified by May 31, 2013.

Qualifying Criteria — Applicants must:

- Be a practicing school administrator in a New Mexico school;
- Have had five years successful administrative experience;
- Hold a valid New Mexico administrator's license;
- Have the concurrence and support of the applicant's superintendent;
- Commit to participating fully in all aspects of the program;
- Complete the application form;
- Participate in a panel interview prior to final selection mid May;
- If selected, pay the \$250 registration fee.

The application is available on the [NMCSA](http://nmcsa.org) website. Interested parties may call the NMCSA office at 505-277-6986 for further information or if you have questions.

New Mexico Association for Curriculum and Development is once again partnering with NM Librarian's Association, NM Society for Technology Education and Learning Forward to bring the 2nd annual New Mexico Educator's Conference scheduled for June 4-5, 2013 at Del Norte High School in Albuquerque. Additional information is forthcoming.

AASA Recognizes New Mexico Superintendent of the Year cont'd.

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I would encourage each of you to go to the AASA website and look for the general session presentation by Jim Collins – author of *“Great by Choice.”* His studies and analysis are all based upon real life situations. His presentation and findings are compelling from both a professional and a personal perspective. I left that session with much more than could ever be conveyed in this short article. One item that still rings in my mind was when he said, *“we need to stop trying to be interesting, and try to be interested.”* The statement stopped the crowd and you could feel the impact throughout the room. I also found out during his presentation that when we hit the age of 65 we have only reached 1/3 of our potential with regard to professional productivity. He cited several examples as evidence. I implore you to seek out and view the presen-

tation for yourself! It will change you and your perspective!

The Superintendent of the Year Presentation was simply a great experience. We do not often get recognized in a positive light and much less with an honor like you bestowed upon me. I will be forever grateful to you. Throughout the rehearsals, events, and the presentations themselves, I thought about each of you by name and how each of you could and should be there in my stead. You are probably unaware of the impact that you have had on me personally and others around you. New Mexico Superintendents are a group of incredible leaders that are second to none. I was truly humbled and honored to accept the award on behalf of you and New Mexico's Superintendents. Thank you for the opportunity!

NMCSA to Host Dr. Yong Zhao at the 2013

Summer Conference



New Mexico Leaders who attended the AASA Leadership Conference in Los Angeles last month listened first-hand to the thought-provoking words of Dr.

Yong Zhao. As a result, our leaders are excited that Dr. Zhao will be the keynote speaker on the first day of the July 2013 NMCSA Conference.

Excerpts of the following taken from AASA Conference Daily Online, written by Scott LaFee.

For Dr. Zhao, a Chinese-born, U.S.-educated researcher, author and entrepreneur, it is a wondrously confusing spectacle. Despite all of the often angst-ridden activity, the mandates and programs, the studies and conclusions, Zhao questions whether anybody really knows the ultimate goal, the final destination.

“I imagine this race to the top, where we push everybody off so that there's no child left behind,” said Zhao.

The line brought chuckles from Saturday's final general session at the AASA national conference, where Zhao, professor of technology and educational policy and leadership and associate dean for global education at the University of Oregon, gave the keynote speech, but there was a serious point beneath Zhao's abundant witticisms: The American public education system isn't broken, despite our best, ongoing efforts to do just that.

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New Mexico's Top Youth Volunteers Selected

Brianna Swinderman, 16, of Rio Rancho and Joseph Lee Estrada, 14, of Velarde were named New Mexico's top two youth volunteers of 2013 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. Brianna, a junior at Rio Rancho High School, has collected more than 2,000 pieces of new or gently-used luggage to give to foster children and victims of domestic violence in Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. To do that, Brianna launched an ambitious campaign called "Bags of Hope" to collect suitcases and duffel bags and distribute them through the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department and the Haven House domestic violence shelter. To solicit donations, she wrote letters to potential contributors, distributed flyers, used social media, created a website, hosted a lemonade stand and booths at community events, and made presentations to businesses, civic groups and churches. She then set up drop-off sites in several towns. "The reaction and support of the community was incredible!" she said. In addition to thousands of bags, Brianna received donations of school supplies and toiletries, and has seen numerous organizations in her community take up her cause. Her campaign has been so successful that the National Foster Parent Association has asked Brianna to help create a similar campaign on a national scale.

Joseph, an eighth grader at Penasco Middle/High School, has been an avid volunteer from an early age, and is now a valuable worker at a local food bank and thrift store. Joseph loved helping out at his school years ago whenever anyone needed help with anything. Later, he volunteered to carry firewood for the elderly during the winter months. When his mother and grandmother began working at a local food bank and thrift store, "I saw how much fun it was and how much I could do to help my community," said Joseph. So he, too, became a regular volunteer at the two facilities. At the food bank, Joseph organizes tables, hands out groceries, loads and unloads vehicles, and then cleans up after the facility

closes by mopping, sweeping, washing tables and throwing away trash. At the thrift store, he sorts and arranges clothing, lifts heavy objects, waters plants, handles the garbage and does whatever else needs to be done. "I feel like it's my job to help, and I have the power to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate," said Joseph. It is especially gratifying, he added, to see the smiles that light up the faces of those who benefit from his volunteer work.

As State Honorees, Brianna and Joseph each will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip in early May to Washington, D.C. for four days of national recognition events.

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High Plains Regional Education Cooperative's Special Education Law Conference: What Every Educator Needs to Know

Melinda (Baird) Jacobs, Esq.

Embassy Suites Hotel
Albuquerque, New Mexico
September 23 - 24, 2013

To register and for more information, visit: www.hprec.com



New Mexico Youth Volunteers *cont'd.*

The Program also recognized two additional New Mexico Students as finalists for their impressive community service activities. They are James Maynard, 17, a senior at La Cueva High School in Albuquerque who co-founded a student chapter of Habitat for Humanity called "Youth United of Greater Albuquerque" in 2011 and has helped to raise more than \$40,000 to co-sponsor a home for a deserving family. James, who also serves as the chapter's co-president, helps to organize fundraising events, participates in home builds, applies for grants, and helps to mentor young members.

Kelly Oostman, 17, of Albuquerque, a member of the American Red Cross in New Mexico and a senior at Big Woods Academy, raised \$1,500 through

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her project, "No Makeup November," to support the A21 Campaign that rescues and rehabilitates victims of the human sex trafficking trade. To give women an opportunity to participate in an event similar to the fundraiser "No Shave November", Kelly worked with her church and her youth group, created a Facebook page and Twitter account, and is working to have the project become a nonprofit organization.

"Through their volunteer service, each of these young people has made his or her mark on at least one person, school or community," said JoAnn Bar-toletti, executive director of NASSP. "When you consider the collective impact of each of these individual acts, it's clear that young people can be a major force for good."

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

NMCSA to Host Dr. Yong Zhao at 2013 Summer Conference *cont'd.*

Continued from page 5

Consider, he said, the perceived paragons of modern education: China, South Korean and other Asian countries whose scores on international tests invariably top the lists, with U.S. scores far below.

American politicians and many educators look at those rankings and bemoan a general decline in U.S. student learning and quality. But Zhao says it's like comparing apples and oranges. Or perhaps, more accurately, chopsticks with knives, forks and spoons.

The Chinese education system, he said, is built to mass-produce superb test-takers who can fill a billion productive but non-creative jobs in society.

Conversely, American schools remain more amenable to creative diversity, fueled by such factors as local control, an open and forgiving system that offers multiple second chances and gender neutrality.

Chinese public education, said Zhao, is a sausage-making machine. American schools produce bacon as well, though he thinks the current push toward a Common Core curriculum (he's no fan) combined with an obsessive effort to rank and label is pushing American schools more into the sausage-making business.

And that is a bad thing, he argued, because America's greatness has long been based upon its diversity and the chance for individual creativity to emerge and thrive.

Zhao noted that despite China's indisputable economic growth, only 1 percent of new patents in the world come from Chinese inventors and compa-

nies, and half of those are from China-based multinational corporations.

He noted that while students in many Asian companies do quite well on tests of math, science and reading, the vast majority is not really interested in any of those subjects. American students, meanwhile, fare more poorly on the tests, but remain abundantly confident that they can succeed in life.

"American education is not in decline. It's not getting worse," said Zhao. "It's always been bad."

Or more precisely, it's always been bad on tests.

But the measure of greatness, he suggested, isn't a multiple-choice question.

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[NMCSA](#) main web page.

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In an effort to present a dynamic conference, with topics that are at the forefront of educating our New Mexico children, we are already seeking presenters for the breakout sessions on July 25 & 26. Sample topics to consider: Common Core, Next Gen Assessments, Educational Leadership, College & Career Readiness Skills.

Please submit your proposal for consideration no later than April 26, 2013. The conference Presenter’s Form can be accessed on the front page of the [NMCSA](#) website.

NOTICE**NMCSA-L Listserv Users**

Due to some unforeseen technical difficulties, the NMCSA-L Listserv is not currently in operation. Please go to the [NMCSA](#) website and select NMCSA Legislative Updates on the left menu bar for the latest info. We apologize for the inconvenience.

NM Businesses Invite School Superintendents to Attend Quality New Mexico Learning Summit & New Mexico Performance Excellence Awards Ceremony



Dr. Terry Holliday, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education, keynotes Quality New Mexico's Learning Summit on April 22 at the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque. Dr. Holliday will address "Preparing America's Future Workforce—The 3 E's."

Dr. Holliday and Denise Holliday will also present workshop sessions on "Implementation of Common Core Standards" and "Synergy Between Baldrige Framework and AdvanceEd Accreditation Process for School Districts" in the afternoon. Dr. Holliday will lead a panel discussion on "Systematic Improvement in Education" the evening of April 22. The panel discussion, moderated by Bill Wadt (Quality New Mexico's Chair Elect and Co-Chair of NM Excellence in Learning) includes: NM Representative Mimi Stewart, Chair of the House Education Committee, Leighann Lenti, Director of Policy for NM Public Education Department, and others to be determined.

Learning Summit Education Sponsors include: INTEL, Wells Fargo, Cooperative Educational Services, Education 2020, FRENCH Funerals/Cremations, Pearson, Voyager Learning, McCarthy Building Companies, and Bill Wadt.


On April 23, David Barger, President/CEO, JetBlue will keynote the Learning Summit. Dr. Holliday and Denise Holliday will present a workshop session on "Evaluating Teacher Effectiveness." In addition, a special ceremony will be held at noon to honor the 2012 New Mexico Performance Excellence Awards recipients. For more informa-

tion, contact Quality New Mexico at 505-944-2001 or visit qualitynewmexico.org.






Quality New Mexico drives performance excellence in New Mexico organizations by providing role models, tools, knowledge, learning experiences, and best practices. Quality New Mexico is the official administrator of the New Mexico Performance Excellence Awards patterned after the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Contact: Julia Gabaldon, 505-944-2003

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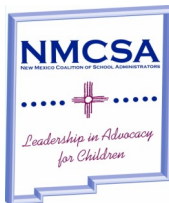
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New Mexico Association of School Business Officials (NMAASBO)
New Mexico Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development (NMAASCD)
Phi Delta Kappa (NMPDK)
New Mexico School Personnel Association (NMSPA)
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Mission

The New Mexico Coalition of School Administrators represents the interests of the state's public school leaders by promoting educational excellence and advocacy for children. This mission will be accomplished through exerting a positive force for education through the New Mexico Public Education Department and New Mexico Legislature. NMCSA will serve as a bridge and provide a forum for diverse points of view which exist statewide. Further, it will support its members through leadership development, professional growth opportunities and other specifically designed services to enhance members' effectiveness as educational leaders.

NMCSA Professional Development

Dr. Gene Kerns

Common Core – Now What?

Thursday, May 2, 2013

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Nativo Lodge, 6000 Pan American Freeway N.E. Albuquerque



NMCSA, in partnership with Renaissance Learning, is pleased to present a follow up session with Dr. Gene Kerns on implementing Common Core State Standards. Districts that attended Part I last October are encouraged to sign up for Part II. It is not necessary to have attended Part I to benefit from Part II. Districts are also encouraged to send teams who will participate in this opportunity. The cost is \$50 per participant, which includes lunch.

Dr. Kerns is a third-generation educator with teaching experience from elementary through the university level and K-12 administrative experience. He has more than a decade of experience of leading staff development and speaking at national and international conferences. Dr. Kerns serves as Vice President and Chief Academic Officer of Renaissance Learning.

Please complete this Registration and submit via email to nmcsa@unm.edu or fax to 505-277-5496. Additional information or questions can be answered by calling 505-277-6986.

District Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ **Phone #:** _____ **email:** _____

Participants:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/School</u>	<u>Email</u>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Please remit the registration fee upon submittal of this form. Deadline for submitting registration is **April 19, 2013**.

P.O. #: _____

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