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April 2014

NMCEL Summer Conference

Leadership Redefined . . . Leadership Matters!

The New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders’ annual conference is scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, July 23-25, 2014. This year’s conference will be held at the Hotel Albuquerque, which is within walking distance to historic Old Town. The hotel provides comfortable accommodations and ample parking. Two very dynamic speakers will share their insights and personal stories about leadership.

In addition to presenting on the motivational speaking circuit, Dave Weber is the author of “Sticks and Stones Exposed: The Power of Our Words” and “Leadership Redefined”.

Each year NMCEL focuses on the topic of Leadership. It is no coincidence that the theme of this year’s conference is Leadership Redefined . . . Leadership Matters! and the keynote on day one is Dave Weber, author of the well-acclaimed book “Leadership [rē•de•‘fined]”. Dave’s keynote will focus on striving for good leadership and positively influencing situations you may encounter.

Dave Weber is an internationally recognized speaker, author and trainer in helping people make progress on purpose. He will discuss with participants that leadership is a matter of influence. And the influence every individual brings to the table can have a profound impact on the educational experience of a child.

Continued on page 5

PARCC Field and Practice Test

Fourteen states and the District of Columbia are administering the PARCC field tests this spring to about 10 percent of the students in these states—this equates to over 199,000 students. Of all testing devices used as reported on Monday, March 24, 81% used Windows, 9.5% MAC, 6.9% Chromebooks and 2.7% iPads.

The field tests will provide educators with a chance to test the test. The purpose of this is to ensure the assessments are valid, reliable and fair. In addition, schools will have the chance to check their readiness in advance to taking the operational test in 2014-15.

Students with disabilities, English language learners and English language learners with disabilities will be included among those taking the field test to ensure that the test works the way it should for every student. Some students will take the field tests on computers, others on paper.

The Practice Test is available to all students—not just those involved in the field testing. PARCC Practice Tests are available online by accessing the following website:

http://practice.parcc.testnav.com/#

Continued on page 4
Dear Colleagues:

By now, most of you have completed this year’s testing and the anxious waiting begins to see how well students performed. I’ve heard, anecdotally, from many district and school administrators that they were surprised at how well students did, process wise, in taking their online assessments. More surprising was how well the infrastructure fared during this initial run. Of course, not every grade or school conducted the online assessment so the concern remains regarding whether New Mexico will be ready for the full scale online assessment in the 2014-15 school year.

At the spring budget conference this past week, districts learned that the Unit Value for the 2014-15 school year is $4005.75. The increase, which is the most districts have seen since 2008, will go a long way in providing much needed revenue to meet district needs. NMCEL and NMSSA worked diligently during this past legislative session to help people understand the difference between above the line and below the line funding. Most people assume that the entire legislative-approved allocation/education funding goes directly to districts. It’s important to remind everyone, including legislators, that only those funds above the line or the SEG (the State Equalization Guarantee) comes to the districts and is then controlled by the School Board and the Superintendent. The rest of the funds (below the line) are under the control of the Secretary and the PED, and although most districts are eligible for many of these funds/programs, they must apply for and be approved to receive the money. Most of the funding above the line—in many districts 85% or more—goes to salaries and benefits for all employees—teachers, support staff, custodians, maintenance, clerical, administrative, etc. The remainder is what must be used for all other expenses. Districts are deep in the throes of budget planning and development, which includes community meetings to share the budget process and to obtain community input. It’s been my experience that when the community is involved and knowledgeable about the district’s budget, they are better able to understand the district’s limitations and scarce resources. In fact, most community members, especially business people, find it hard to believe that districts function as efficiently as they do with their limited resources.

Meanwhile, everyone understands that public school funding is public funding and the public has a right to know where every penny goes and to expect a good return on their investment. For that reason, although administrators and teachers may question reform issues, and may express their concern and their disagreement with the process, they are always interested in doing all they can to improve the teaching and learning process. The main concern in these times of great change is that if we are doing too much too quickly, can we achieve the results we’re all hoping for?

Continued on page 4
NMCEL Board Scheduled to Meet April 10

April 10, 2014 Proposed Agenda

- Call meeting to order
- Approval of Agenda
- Introduction of Board Members/Recognition of Affiliates & Announcements
- Discussion Items:
  - Chris Scheuler Project/Presentation
  - Budget/School Funding Update
  - Scholarship Update
  - 2014 Conference Update
  - Hall of Fame/Earl Nunn Memorial Nominations
  - Corazon Award
  - Summer Retreat
  - Executive Director Evaluation
- Action Items:
  - Request to Approve Minutes of February 6, 2014
  - Request to Approve Financial Statements Through March 2014
- Reports:
  - Reports from Affiliates, Executive Director & Staff

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 (NMAAA)
- New Mexico Association of Bilingual Educators (NMABE)
- New Mexico Educational Retirees Association (NMAER)
- New Mexico Association of Elementary School Principals (NMAESP)
- New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals (NMASSP)
- New Mexico Association of School Business Officials (NMASBO)
- New Mexico Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (NMASCD)
- Phi Delta Kappa (NMPDK)
- 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)
Rendón’s Reflections cont’d.

The recent lauding of increases in graduation, the increase in the number of Hispanic students taking AP courses and the slight narrowing of the achievement gap did not happen in one or two years. The programs, interventions and increase in expectations have occurred over a number of years, and we are just beginning to see the fruits of those labors. The current denigration of public school employees will not serve to increase motivation and confidence but instead will do the opposite—drive out those good folks who are unable to do their jobs while also staving off such negativity. Let’s remember that the positive results we are beginning to see in our schools are the product of the work of the people who are currently or were in our schools in the recent past. Let’s do our best to keep our excellent teachers and administrators and use our resources to help others to improve and achieve their best. Our students in New Mexico deserve no less.

Best wishes for a restful Spring Break.

Dr. Gloria O. Rendón, NMCEL Executive Director

PARCC Field and Practice Test cont’d.

Complete information about Field Test Administration, Technology Resources, FAQs, Practice Tests and Practice Test Answers can be found at:  
http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-assessment

The Practice Test was developed so that all students—not just those involved in the field testing—can experience PARCC test items the way they will appear on the tests starting in 2015. There will be two major releases of the Practice Test — one in the spring 2014 and on in the fall 2014.

Spring 2014 Release of PARCC Practice Tests consist of:

- Grades 3-11 Performance-Based Assessment tests for English Language Arts/Literacy.
- Grades 3-8 End of Year tests for mathematics and Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry End of Year tests for mathematics.

Fall 2014 Release of PARCC Practice Tests will consist of:

- Grades 3-11 End of Year tests for English Language Arts/Literacy.
- Grades 3-8 Performance-Based tests for mathematics and Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry Performance-Based tests for mathematics.

Social media has allowed the PARCC states to have conversations with teachers, test administrators, technology coordinators and students. PARCC reported early lessons they learned include: teachers share resources; technology coordinators share information and what they learn with their peers; students don’t like tests.

PARCC has also learned from feedback that has allowed for real time adjustments and improvements and continues to solicit feedback and conversations. PARCC is working on speedier access to their call center and better follow-up. Teachers and tech coordinators have shared helpful suggestions such as: turn off anti-virus software, turn off the accelerator on Internet Explorer and, where possible, have students try out sample items before going through the field test, to make the test-taking experience go smoothly.
Dave Weber to Keynote at
NMCEL Conference cont’d.
A poem that Dave learned from his father:

“There once was a teacher
Whose principle feature
Was hidden in quite an odd way.
Students by millions,
Possibly zillions,
Followed him all of the day.
When finally seen
By the scholarly dean
And asked how he managed the deed,
He raised three fingers
And said, “All you swingers
Need only to follow my lead.
To rise from a zero
To big campus hero
To answer these questions you’ll strive:
Where am I going?
How will I get there?
And how will I know I’ve arrived?”

Dave states, “. . . the road to becoming a leader starts not by looking at who, or what, you’ll be leading. Instead, it starts by taking a good, hard look in the mirror — and then into the crystal ball of your life. You might be surprised at how big an impact seemingly small actions can have, both on the people and situations around you, as well as on your life itself.”

Make Plans To Attend the
NMCEL Summer Conference
“Leadership Redefined — Leadership Matters!”
Member — $225 Non-Member — $350
Hotel Albuquerque
Visit the NMCEL website for
Conference and Hotel Registration
(Registration Form Included on page 12)
Aspiring Superintendents’ Academy

The Aspiring Superintendents’ Academy (ASA) is entering its sixth 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 5 were able to interact with experts covering an array of topics from building budgets to building solid relationships with board members and their communities. As a result, during their mock interviews with volunteer board members from various districts, they were touted as being exceptionally well prepared. Their program of study will be completed in June of this year. Past participants who have since become superintendents in New Mexico include Travis Dempsey, Cloudcroft; Susan Wilkinson-Davis, Vaughn; Ricky Williams, Hagerman; Lesa Dodd, Dexter among others.

Applications are now available for the 2014-2015 school year. Interested individuals are required to complete the application and submit it electronically to NMCEL at asa2014-15@nmcel.org. A panel of administrators including members of previous cohorts will interview prospective candidates.

Applications are due by close of business on May 9, 2014

and applicants will be selected and notified by June 13, 2014.

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 and submit required documents;

• Participate in a panel interview prior to final selection mid June;

• If selected, pay the $250 registration fee.

The application is available on the NMCEL website. Interested parties may call the NMCEL office at 505-277-6986 for further information or if you have questions.
Alan Blankstein will keynote on July 25 at the NMCEL Conference

Alan Blankstein is the author of Failure Is Not an Option® and 9 volumes of the Soul of Education Leadership series. A former “high risk” youth, he began his career in education as a music teacher and has worked in youth-serving organizations, including the March of Dimes, Phi Delta Kappa and Solution Tree, which he founded in 1987 and directed for 12 years.

Alan is Founder and President of the HOPE Foundation (Harnessing Optimism and Potential through Education) a not-for-profit organization. The HOPE Foundation has a more than decade-long track record of helping leaders create school cultures where “failure is not an option” for any student. He launched the professional learning communities’ movement through HOPE first by bringing W. Edwards Deming and later, Peter Senge into the educational arena, and then publishing seminal works on the topic.

Alan has also provided keynote addresses through the UK, South Africa, the Middle East, Canada, and for most major educational organizations in the United States.

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ehowey@amplify.com

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NMCEL Affiliates/Board Members

REMINDER!

- Each Affiliate conducts a presentation during at least one breakout session at summer conference.
- Each Affiliate donates a gift for door prizes at summer conference.
- Forward names of administrators of the year (if your organization does such) to:

  Barbara Vigil-Lowder, barbara@nmcel.org
The Educational Value of Field Trips

Excerpt taken from EDUCATION\textsuperscript{next}, Winter 2014/VOL. 14, NO. 1, by Jay P. Greene, Brian Kisida and Daniel H. Bowen.

Taking students to an art museum improves critical thinking skills. The school field trip has a long history in American public education. For decades, students have piled into yellow buses to visit a variety of cultural institutions, including art, natural history, and science museums, as well as theaters, zoos, and historical sites. Schools gladly endured the expense and disruption of providing field trips because they saw these experiences as central to their educational mission: schools exist not only to provide economically useful skills in numeracy and literacy, but also to produce civilized young men and women who would appreciate the arts and culture. More advantaged families may take their children to these cultural institutions outside of school hours, but less advantaged students are less likely to have these experiences if schools do not provide them. With field trips, public schools viewed themselves as the great equalizer in terms of access to our cultural heritage.

Today, culturally enriching field trips are in decline. Museums across the country report a steep drop in school tours. For example, the Field Museum in Chicago at one time welcomed more than 300,000 students every year. Recently the number is below 200,000. A survey by the American Association of School Administrators found that more than half of schools eliminated planned field trips in 2010-11.

The decision to reduce culturally enriching field trips reflects a variety of factors. Financial pressures force schools to make difficult decisions about how to allocate scarce resources, and field trips are increasingly seen as an unnecessary frill. Greater focus on raising student performance on math and reading standardized tests may also lead schools to cut field trips. Some schools believe that student time would be better spent in the classroom preparing for the exams. When schools do organize field trips, they are increasingly choosing to take students on trips to reward them for working hard to improve their test scores rather than to provide cultural enrichment. Schools take students to amusement parks, sporting events, and movie theaters instead of to museums and historical sites. This shift from “enrichment” to “reward” field trips is reflected in a generational change among teachers about the purposes of these outings. In a 2012-13 survey conducted of nearly 500 Arkansas teachers, those who had been teaching for at least 15 years were significantly more likely to believe that the primary purpose of a field trip is to provide a learning opportunity, while more junior teachers were more likely to see the primary purpose as “enjoyment”.

Continued on page 8
If schools are de-emphasizing culturally enriching field trips, has anything been lost as a result? Surprisingly, we have relatively little rigorous evidence about how field trips affect students. The research presented here is the first large-scale randomized-control trial designed to measure what students learn from school tours of an art museum.

The authors found that students learn quite a lot. In particular, enriching field trips contribute to the development of students into civilized young men and women who possess more knowledge about art, have stronger critical-thinking skills, exhibit increased historical empathy, display higher levels of tolerance, and have a greater taste for consuming art and culture.

To read additional information regarding this study, refer to [http://educationnext.org/the-educational-value-of-field-trips/](http://educationnext.org/the-educational-value-of-field-trips/).
Visit Us
We're on the Web!

www.nmcel.org

NMCEL
- Executive Board Meeting, April 10, 2014
- Board Retreat, June 2-3, 2014
- 2014 Annual Conference, July 23-25, Hotel Albuquerque
- Symposium, October 21, 2014

Upcoming Events

NMABE
- State Spanish Spelling Bee, April 12, 2014, Hotel Cascada
- State Conference For Bilingual Education, April 23-26, 2014, Albuquerque
- National Spanish Spelling Bee, July 17-19, 2014, Hotel Cascada

NMSSA Meetings
- June 7, 2014, in conjunction with NMSBA Law Conference, Albuquerque
- July 24, 2014, in conjunction w/NMCEL Annual Conference, Hotel Albuquerque

NMRSA
The NM Retired Superintendents’ Association will recognize superintendents who are retiring this year at a luncheon on June 5, 2014 at 11:30, Teofilo’s Restaurant in Los Lunas.

NMSTE
- Mini-Conference, April 11-12, 2014, Las Cruces

Quality New Mexico Announces Opportunity for NM Superintendents

Quality New Mexico (QNM) will hold its annual Learning Summit and New Mexico Performance Excellence Award Ceremony 16th & 17th. Details of the event are available at https://www.qualitynewmexico.org/.

QNM created a special 2-day registration fee of $249 for Superintendents. Corporate sponsors will sponsor 30 registrations. Contact Bill Wadt for more information at wrwadt@aol.com. Event flyer is on page 12.

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Presentation Proposal

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Leadership Redefined – Leadership Matters!
July 23 - July 25, 2014

Name____________________________________________ Title__________________________________

Organization / Affiliate___________________________________________________________________

Address_______________________________________________________________________________

Phone________________ FAX___________________ E-mail____________________________________

Title of presentation:

Give a brief description of your presentation:  (50 to 60 words please)

Other pertinent information:

AV Equipment: Presenters will provide own laptop and LCD projector.

***** PLEASE SUBMIT BY APRIL 25, 2014 *****

Email form to: 2014presentations@nmcel.org or
Fax to: 505-277-5496
Leadership Redefined.....Leadership Matters!

NMCEL 2014 SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
JULY 23 – 25, 2014
Hotel Albuquerque, 800 Rio Grande Blvd., Albuquerque, NM
Mail or fax this form to contact above or register on-line at: nmcel.org

NAME (please print):______________________________________________________
District_______________________________________________________________

MAILING ADDRESS:_____________________________________________________

POSITION:_________________________E-MAIL:_________________PHONE____________________

EARLY REGISTRATION (received by July 1, 2014)

Members* $225.00 Non-Members $350.00
All cancellations must be received in writing, fax or email.
A fee of $75.00 will be charged for cancellations received after July 1, 2014
No-shows will be billed full amount of registration.

LATE REGISTRATION FEE (after July 1, 2014 - including walk-ins):
ADD $75.00 TO APPROPRIATE FEE ABOVE!
My conference fee is $__________________ Method of Payment: [ ] PO# ______________
[ ] Please invoice. [ ] Check Enclosed

* Contact your superintendent’s office or the NMCEL office to check for membership status if you are not sure.
After July 13th, only on-site registration accepted.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Call Hotel Albuquerque Reservations at 1-866-505-7829 and identify yourself as an attendee to the NM Coalition of Educational Leaders Conference in order to qualify for conference room rates of $90.
or
should you wish to reserve your room online please visit
http://goo.gl/v7FbUb before July 01, 2014!
2014 Quality New Mexico Learning Summit and New Mexico Performance Excellence Awards Ceremony
April 16-17, 2014
Isleta Resort Albuquerque

Attention Education Leaders

Learning Summit Day 1, April 16
7:30am-8:30pm - Summit Registration/Information & Exhibit Gallery
8:30am-9:30am - General Session I
9:30am-10:00am - Refreshments/Networking/Exhibits
10:00am-10:45am - General Session II
10:45am-11:30am - General Session III
JoAnn Sternke, Superintendent, Pewaukee School District
12:00pm-1:00pm - Lunch Keynote
1:15pm-3:00pm - Concurrent Session A
JoAnn Sternke, Superintendent, Pewaukee School District
3:00pm-3:15pm - Refreshments/Networking/Exhibits
3:15pm-4:45pm - Concurrent Session B
JoAnn Sternke, Superintendent, Pewaukee School District
4:45pm - Adjourn

Learning Summit Day 2, April 17
7:30am-8:30am Summit Registration/Information & Exhibit Gallery
8:30am-9:30am General Session IV
9:30am-9:45am Refreshments/Networking/Exhibits
9:45am-10:25am General Session V
Mark Elgart, President/CEO, AdvancED
10:30am-11:45 Concurrent Session C
JoAnn Sternke, Superintendent, Pewaukee School District
12:00pm-2:00pm Awards Luncheon
20th Annual New Mexico Performance Excellence Awards Ceremony
Door Prizes
2:00pm Adjourn

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1-877-747-5382 or 505-948-1999
Mention 2014 Quality New Mexico Learning Summit Code: QNM0414

Hotel Special Group Rate $99 Single or Double Occupancy
• Rate valid on April 15 and April 16, 2014
• Rate cut-off date is April 1, 2014
• Each Registrant is responsible for his/her own lodging