New Mexico Education Summit 1.0
Changing the Conversation, The Equation, The Outcome

The New Mexico Education Summit 1.0 was held on November 14, 2016 at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque. Members of the Steering Committee worked to formulate the guiding questions that carried the discussion throughout the day:

- What’s working?
- What are the bottlenecks?
- We are not there yet, what’s next?
- How can I contribute as an individual, as an organization, as an institution?

Doug Turner, Chair of the NM Business Roundtable and Jack Jekowski, Summit Committee Chair, conducted the opening session. They talked about the current state of education still being very challenging and the need to work together to improve the system.

Sarah Gustavus, NMPBS, facilitated Plenary Focus Group 1. The following superintendents served on this panel: Lillian Torrez, Taos; Kirk Carpenter, Aztec; Bill Green, Reserve; Michael Grossman, Lake Arthur; Ricky Williams, Hagerman; Stan Rounds, NMCEL Executive Director. An open and honest discussion ensued to discuss what’s working, what’s holding districts back other than money, how districts are addressing the trauma students are facing, community involvement and bringing in best practices into New Mexico. Some of the ideas shared were:

- Foster community relationships and re-engagement of communities; work with non-profits and businesses.
- Spirit of collaboration — K-12 and Higher Ed; partnerships help student readiness.
- Technology is key for micro-districts—more course offerings for students.
- Teacher evaluation framework is helping districts in some aspects, but hurting local control.
- Wide disparity in districts sizes is challenging when trying to narrow the achievement gap.
- Small districts find it difficult to find and hire teachers, i.e. math; build teacher pipeline.
- Counseling services not available, especially in small districts.
- Need to understand each student’s story, where they come from, where they are living.
- Business and education need to partner and tailor the approach for communities.
- Current discussion regarding a change in dual enrollment will restrict opportunities for students.
- Graduation requirements need to change so students can demonstrate their ability to solve real world problems; tests don’t show that a student will succeed.
- Reform in education has to be driven by people having good conversations about education in New Mexico; reform comes through educators partnering with business people and having open conversations. There needs to be a strategic plan to bring key people to the table—teachers are key.
- A stable, predictable revenue stream with a high level of investment in education must be in place.

Dr Susanna Murphy, AdvancED NM, facilitated the Teacher Panel in the afternoon. Teachers shared inspirational stories that led them to pursue their teaching career. In addition, they discussed what’s working, challenges, and guidance they would recommend for teacher preparation programs and advice they could offer Summit attendees.

- Work with communities and students; engage community members to give presentations at schools.
- NM schools have amazing administrators who set a positive tone and provide support to make schools work even when the system is difficult.
- Need time to collaborate to create lesson plans. The time required to upload documents for
Dear Colleagues:

I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This year, I am particularly blessed to have the honor to work with each of you. I am truly blessed! We take a moment to reflect on the major events in our lives at this time of year, and I want to take a moment for us to reflect on Barbara’s recent loss of her mother. I know that each of you will appreciate Barbara’s courageous efforts at working through her loss. Thanks for supporting our NMCEL Family.

As we move towards the 2017 Legislative Session, we have received the latest revenue forecast recently, that reflects a continued downturn in this year’s revenue. While OPEC and Non-OPEC players have signed off on reducing the international market, it is unlikely that the State’s income stream will rebound quickly enough to deal with this year’s shortfall. As Senator Smith states, we need “this year” money. The range of considerations include, but are not limited to a cash sweep of some magnitude (perhaps $25-125 million), a reduction of SEG and overall budgets, immediate tax increases (that probably are hard to win on the 4th floor), small school consolidation (which we adamantly oppose), etc.

What this really means is that we have an opportunity, right now, to begin defining our future. I reflect on our “stake in the ground” that no further cuts can be made to public school budgets, period. This will be challenged early in the Session as the Legislature attempts to reign in the state budget for FY17. The follow on for FY18 will likely see a small rebound in revenue for the state that may allow very limited adjustments. We must be purposeful and active with our local legislators before they get to Santa Fe and I urge you to contact them while they are still “at home” to inform them of the impacts on your district to these potential proposals.

We got a glimpse of the Secretary’s Public School Appropriations Request and I have provided both that spreadsheet and the overall revenue forecast documents to you recently through e-mail. It essentially maintains a “level funding” scenario based on the actions of the Special Session (as the new base). If you failed to get those or need them again, please let us know and we will re-send them to you. If you are concerned about things like the cash balance sweep, please feel free to contact me for discussion.
NMCEL Board Minutes in Brief

December 8, 2016

- Meeting called to order
- Board approved Agenda as presented
- Introduction of Board Members/Recognition of Affiliates & Announcements
- Discussion Items:
  - FY 16 Audit
  - Update: LESC, LFC Meetings
  - Update on other meetings — Legislative Primer (1/12/17)
  - Update on Upcoming Legislative Session
  - Mid-Year Budget Review
  - Conference Update — Theme
  - Closed Session (Personnel)
- Action Items:
  - Approval of October 27, 2016 Minutes
  - Approval of Financial Statements through November 30, 2016
  - Approval of Theme for 2016 Summer Conference
- Reports:
  - Affiliates, Executive Director, Communication & Leadership Coordinator, Office Manager

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 (NMASBO)
- 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)
2017 NMCEL Scholarship Announcement

NMCEL is pleased to announce a scholarship opportunity for seniors who will graduate in May of 2017. 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 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 available on the NMCEL website and high school counseling offices.

Applications must be emailed to the NMCEL office no later than: February 24, 2017.

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)

or

Mail to: NMCEL
COE, MSC05 3040
1 UNM
Albuquerque, NM 87131
Phone: 505-217-2345

www.nmcel.org
Real Student Safety Saves Lives.

Protect your students from self-harm, drug or alcohol use, cyberbullying, pornography, harmful family situations and much more with Gaggle Safety Management.

Gaggle ensures the safety of students by combining machine learning technology with real people who review questionable and suspicious content in online file storage, inbound and outbound email, attachments, links to websites and other tools.

Gaggle also provides archiving services, school and district websites and professional development.

Visit gaggle.net to learn more, including an overview of services, video testimonials, case studies and more!

Contact Us! 800.288.7750 • sales@gaggle.net • @gaggle_k12
evaluation takes away from curriculum planning and family time; there must be a balance with the profession, family and self.

- Elementary teachers must teach math, yet they have their own anxieties about the subject; doesn’t make for a good teaching/learning experience.
- The key to enrich the teacher preparation program is to practice, practice, practice. Spend several semesters of college coursework in the classroom with current teachers.
- Schools should be palaces at the center of our communities; can’t keep cutting the budgets; it’s the hardest job and one of the most thankless.
- Look at our demographics and what students need; work with our teachers, administrators and communities; seek our ideas.
- There must be a vision for education; otherwise, we are disconnected. Build partnerships with business and the National Laboratories; we need to give students skills today.
- Change perception of teaching; salaries are low; second jobs are necessary for many teachers to support their family.
- Demands on the teaching profession are extraordinary compared to other professions.

Participants also heard a message from the Honorable Lamar Alexander, United States Senior Senator from Tennessee and Chairman of the United States Senate Education Committee on Every Student Succeeds Act.

Closing comments from Doug Turner encouraged all to create a platform to promote collaboration and conversation. He stated that we must still engage and get involved with legislators and school boards.
New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders  
New Mexico School Superintendents Association  
New Mexico School Boards Association  
2017 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Assure Solvency

The New Mexico State Budget and Public School Budget must be solvent. New Mexico students must be provided the education they deserve.

Planning for FY18 Must Begin by Assuring “Sufficient Funding” for Public Education

There must be no further cuts to Public Education funding. The 1.5% reduction in SEG and the sweeping of discretionary funds has created a new base level funding that must be sustained into FY18.

Further cuts to public education will create harm to the children of New Mexico, as it will curtail our ability to deliver educational services necessary for our students. Therefore, it is critical that we cease further reductions and assure the funding of current operations of districts is at a comprehensive and fully funded basis.

Strike A Balance Between Revenues and Expenditures

Education is “INSUFFICIENTLY FUNDED” in the State of New Mexico. It is imperative that the Legislature establish a diversified revenue stream to overcome the state’s over reliance on any one sector of income. Oil and Gas has been and is likely to continue to be a volatile source of income for the state. A plan must be established and enacted that anticipates this volatility. We urge an adoption of the use of sources such as the State Land Grant Permanent Fund and/or the State Severance Tax Fund on a “loaned basis” as a solution to this volatility. Districts must be guaranteed that no further reductions of funding for the provisions of educational services will be initiated, and that the education of our students is sufficiently funded.

Indefinite Moratorium of Charters

Charter Schools have grown substantially in numbers and student population over the past several years. The establishment of charter schools has created a negative funding impact on the state equalization guarantee, threatening the sustainability of funding for school districts and established charter schools. The adoption of new charter schools should be suspended immediately and indefinitely.

Continued on page 8.
New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders  
New Mexico School Superintendents Association  
New Mexico School Boards Association  
2017 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM cont’d.

Assure Equity of Access

Future funding should include the evaluation of equity of school district access to  
“Below the Line – Targeted Investments.”

Equity of Access to funding by districts in New Mexico must be assured. Because of district population size differences and the need to maximize benefits from certain specialized funding, future funding increases for public schools must include balanced access. These considerations should encompass all delivery points including, but not limited to, those provided to rural districts by Regional Educational Cooperatives.

Strengthen the Teacher and Administrative Pipeline

The pipeline of teachers and administrators is critically smaller than is necessary to meet the short-term and long-term demands in New Mexico Public Schools.  
We must reverse the trend.

The Teacher Pipeline

Participation in Higher Education Teacher Preparation Programs is shrinking considerably, and the pipeline of qualified, quality teachers is dwindling. We urge the adoption of legislation that will reverse that trend. This should include the consideration of traditional and non-traditional pathways to licensure and must focus on building the capacity within districts to compensate teachers competitively with other professions.

The Administrator Pipeline

The pipeline of administrators is in a critical downward trend. We urge the adoption of an aggressive effort to increase the number of administrators that are prepared to meet the challenges of public education. This initiative must include the adoption of a mentoring/support process that is appropriately funded to assure short and long term success of the future leaders of New Mexico Public Schools.
NMCEL’s Aspiring Superintendents’ Academy (ASA) has entered its eighth year of providing professional development to school administrators interested in someday becoming school superintendents. In cooperation with the NM School Boards Association, the Aspiring Superintendents participated in mock interviews on December 3, 2016.

School board members from across the state volunteered their time to conduct mock interviews with each of our seven participants. The Premier Prospects Portfolio containing resumes and associated documents of each of the ASA participants was made available to the mock board with a description of a school district and associated questions.

NMCEL extends a Thank You to the following for assisting with this process:

- Joe Guillen, NMSBA Executive Director
- Jeffrey Atencio, Pojoaque School Board Member
- Toby Velasquez, Pojoaque School Board Member
- Lorenzo Garcia, Albuquerque School Board Member
- Yolanda Salazar, Española School Board Member
- Priscilla Manuelito, Gallup-McKinley School Board Member

AASA Awards Mini-Grant to Taos Municipal Schools

On December 1, 2016, The School Superintendents Association announced recipients of the 2017 Helping Kids Program. The program is funded by AASA through a partnership with the National Joint Powers Alliance.

NJPA provides member-centered solutions that enable government, education and non-profit agencies to work more efficiently and leverages its resources to effectively reinvest in the communities it serves as an invaluable service cooperative partner.

Since 2012, AASA and NJPA have partnered to create the mini grant, which can be used for immediate needs that directly impact students.

“NJPA is our most valuable AASA School Solutions Center partner,” said Daniel A. Domenech, AASA Executive Director. “This partnership helps to ensure that the voices of AASA members are being heard. We thank NJPA for its continuing support.”

Congratulations Dr. Lillian Torrez and the Taos Municipal School District.
Leadership is ...

Honoring the greatness—and uniqueness—in others.

Stan’s Straight Talk cont’d.

If you have concerns about any of these items or need more information. Please feel free to contact me for a “personal primer.” Speaking of “primers”, our “Legislative Primer” for new superintendents and the Aspiring Superintendents Academy will take place at the Roundhouse on January 12. If you are interested in attending, please contact the NMCEL office at 505-217-2345.

Enjoy your holidays and take time to get some well-deserved “down time.”

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Executive Director!

Sincerely,

Stan Rounds, NMCEL Executive Director

Upcoming Events

**CES**
- Special Education Hot Topics Recorded Webinars.

**NMCEL**
- Board Meeting, February 16, 2017, Online
- Board Meeting April 6, 2017, NMAA
- Board Retreat, June 5-6, 2017, TBD
- Summer Conference, July 19-21, 2017, Embassy Suites, Albuquerque

**NMSSA**
- Meeting at NMSBA Board Institute, February 24, 2017, Santa Fe
- Meeting at Spring Budget Workshop, April 12, 2017, Hotel Albuquerque
- Meeting at NMSBA Law Conference, June 9, 2017
- Meeting at NMCEL Conference, July 20, 2017, Embassy Suites

**AASA**
- National Conference, March 2-4, 2017, New Orleans

2017 Legislative Session Dates:

- January 17 Opening Day
- February 16 Deadline for Introduction of Legislation
- March 18 Session Ends

nmlegis.gov

Visit Us
We’re on the Web!

www.nmcel.org
At The Forefront of STEM Teaching & Learning

As a part of our commitment to effective STEM education, we have developed a variety of powerful and engaging resources designed to fuel a cultural shift around STEM teaching and learning!

Learn More: DiscoveryEducation.com/STEM