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Visit the NMCEL website for information on:
• 2015 Legislative Priorities
• 2015 Education Bills
• Legislative Updates from Dr. Gloria Rendón, NMCEL Executive Director

AASA Honors Paul Benoit
New Mexico Superintendent of the Year

“Perspectives on the Life Balance Spectrum of an Educator”

AASA — National Conference on Education
by Paul M. Benoit, Superintendent, Floyd Schools

Being selected New Mexico’s Superintendent of the Year has been a great honor. Receiving the recognition of my peers, in such a manner, will always be one of the moments of my career that cause me to look back at a career that spans almost 30 years of my life with appreciation for all that teachers and administrators do. In spite of continued and increased “roadblocks”, by-ways, and detours that come our way, I love the pursuit of excellence in Public Education!

As the New Mexico Superintendent of the Year, one of the “expectations” was that I attend and represent the Floyd School District, the NM Superintendent’s Association and New Mexico Educators at the AASA National Conference in Education. For many small school superintendents, this is a “once-in-a-career” opportunity to meet and network with educational professionals and presenters from across this country. And, given the national furor over “quality of education”, these are exciting times to share in this opportunity.

One of the highlights of the conference, for me, was to have the opportunity to serve on a panel of experienced superintendents from across the nation and to share in a Q & A session with a group of new superintendents, all of whom are in their first superintendent position and most for less than three years. One particular topic discussed was: Life Balance of the School Superintendent. As I approach year 30 of my educational career and year 12 as a superintendent (ten of those in Floyd), this was a rather poignant and reflective topic to consider as I prepared for the panel; and, more so, as I shared my thoughts with this hopeful, bright and enthusiastic set of school administrators looking to be the future of public school leaders in our nation!

As I stared into the audience of the 20+ superintendents, most 10-15 years my junior, I was moved with their passion, commitment and hope to impact the lives of the students served in their respective districts. They have spent the last couple of years being mentored by experienced, seasoned superintendents. And, now, they were waiting to hear...
From the Executive Director—Rendón’s Reflections

Dear Colleagues:

I think we can all agree that March has come in like a lion! Hopefully, it will go out like a lamb, as the old adage says! Our schools are also dealing with a great deal of tumult these days—students walking out in protest of the PARCC exam, parents in such conflict about what to do, teachers and administrators who also may have questions and concerns yet must follow the educator’s code of ethics. It’s a tough time to be an educator no matter what side of the debate one is on. I, for one, commend every teacher and administrator who is doing their very best to maintain and enhance the learning environment for all students while also working to keep every child safe.

Regarding the Legislative Session: we are in the fourth week of monitoring legislation and providing comment when necessary or when the bill is an issue we’ve listed on our legislative platform. It’s fair to say that it is pretty easy to make people angry when one is speaking either for or against a bill. Many times this year, I’ve had to literally stand in the middle of committee rooms and report that we can support one part of the bill but not another—talk about ambivalence! However, in today’s education climate and in light of discussions both at the state and national level it’s not easy to stand and say we can wholeheartedly support anything! The only item that we can support, without question, is that education needs sufficient funding and that new funding needs to be placed above the line so school communities can make the best decision for their students. Another item we can and will support is additional compensation for our school employees. Although there is currently no money for school employee raises, other than that to increase beginning teachers’ salaries to $34,000, our hope is that some adjustments will be made once the budget is considered on the Senate side.

Hundreds of bills have been introduced during this session with probably about a third of them addressing public education in one fashion or another. With little more than two weeks left in the session, very few bills have actually made it and been heard on the floor of either chamber and no education bills headed to the Governor’s desk. Obviously, it is relatively early in the process and a flurry of activity will be seen in the next couple of weeks as legislators hurry to wrap up their work. It will be more important to watch every bill and track its progress in the next several days.

Please take advantage of the session to see firsthand how the legislative process works. It’s not always pretty, but it is definitely fascinating!

Sincerely,

Dr. Gloria O. Rendón, NMCEL Executive Director
NMCEL Board Minutes in Brief

February 19, 2015, Agenda

Meeting was called to order  
Board approved Agenda  
Introduction of Board Members/Recognition of Affiliates & Announcements

Discussion Items:
- Legislative Update  
- Update on Specific Bills  
- Update on Scholarship Process  
- Conference Update  
- Update on Aspiring Principals Academy—planning  
- Mid-year Budget Review

Action Items:
- Approval of December 11, 2014 minutes  
- Approval of Financial Statements for December 2014, January 2015

Reports:
- Reports from Affiliates  
- Executive Director Report  
- Communication & Leadership Coordinator Report  
- Office Manager Report

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 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 (NASCSD)
- 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)

High Plains Regional Education Cooperative’s Special Education Law Conference: What’s New, What’s Hot, and What Do You Need to Know

Melinda Jacobs, Esq

Embassy Suites Hotel  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
September 28 - 29, 2015

To register and for more information, visit: www.hprec.com
At Saturday’s closing general session of the 2015 AASA National Conference, all eyes were on keynote speaker U.S. Army Lt. Colonel Consuelo Kickbusch (ret.). Her story, though, was of a life often spent struggling to be seen.

Kickbusch, a motivational speaker and author of Journey to the Future, described a hard-scrabble, often bleak childhood growing up in the barrio of Laredo, Texas. Her parents were uneducated and spoke no English. Her teachers, by and large, saw only another “foreigner” who didn’t belong. Young Consuelo Castillo grew up angry, speaking as often with her fists as with English, which she found difficult to learn. But a high school teacher named Mr. Cooper saw something more. You’re brilliant, he told her. “You’re a leader leading the wrong way.” With Mr. Cooper’s help and prodding, Castillo overcame her struggles. She went to college, then joining the Army, serving for 20 years. Ultimately, she returned home to create a new career dedicated to helping children like herself.

“Poverty and geography should never determine a child’s destiny,” she told a rapt audience. “Every child has a name and a story. They don’t have unions or lawyers on retainers, they have you. I needed someone to recognize I could do good. I had Mr. Cooper. Our country’s children need you.”

NMCEL will host Consuelo Kickbusch as the keynote speaker on the first day (July 23) at the summer conference.
“words of wisdom” from a panel of four “Superintendents of the Year” from around the country (West Virginia, Louisiana, South Carolina, and New Mexico). This was actually more daunting that I thought it was going to be. I was forced to consider questions such as, “How long is your typical day?” or “How do you balance expectations and demands of the job with family time?” These questions were easy to answer from a “philosophical” or “theoretical” perspective, which we each did quite well. I gave them the reminder that they must always remember, “Your family is going to write the inscription on your headstone, not your school district, peers or board.” Though this statement was well received by all in the room, in reality ANY committed educator (teacher or administrator) does not face the truth well . . . As I shared the answers from a theoretical perspective, I had the “real reel” of my life playing in the back of my head! The hours my own children spent under my desk or that of my wife’s, who is also an educator, when they were little . . . The hours spent on the office and classroom floor playing; and as they got older and older yet, the hours of skating, playing, running, etc. in the gymnasium or out on the walks of the school grounds . . . The evenings at various school events waiting patiently for dad and mom to finish watching other people’s children perform, play, and otherwise “entertain” parents, teachers, and friends . . . Finally, in their junior and senior high years, my own kids playing sports, performing in school shows and other activities that the older kids in our public schools enjoy . . .

So, if you are entertaining education careers (teachers, administrators), what is the balance? Preparing the next generation is the most worthy endeavor you can undertake. By the end of my time on this particular panel, I left the group with this realization: My own kids are wonderfully average kids who have become productive citizens of this society—some with college education, others going directly into the work force. Each a successful product of a set of parents who set worthy spiritual, professional and personal goals for themselves at home, work and play! These in some effect, are the attributes that helped shape my own, and those of our children, and those of every child with whom we were blessed to cross paths. Did I always balance things in the “perfect” theoretical sense? No! But, I believe that my wife and children will write an inscription on my headstone that captures my spiritual, personal and professional love of learning and helping others grow and strive to make the future bright!

That, my friends, is success!

That is this educator’s “pearl of wisdom” regarding the “Life Balance Spectrum” of a true educator!
Aspiring Superintendents’ Academy

The Aspiring Superintendents’ Academy (ASA) is entering its seventh 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 6 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 around New Mexico include Travis Dempsey, Cloudcroft; Susan Wilkinson-Davis, Vaughn; Ricky Williams, Hagerman; Lesa Dodd, Dexter; Richard Perea, Santa Rosa, Lillian Torrez, Taos.

Applications are now available for the 2015-2016 school year. Interested individuals are required to complete the application and submit it electronically to NMCEL at asa2015-16@nmcel.org. A panel of administrators including members of previous cohorts will interview prospective candidates.

Applications are due by close of business on May 8, 2015

and applicants will be selected and notified by June 12, 2015.

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.
Values & Education, Finding Those “Teachable Moments — Cal Ripken, Jr., Retired Baseball Player

Values Cal learned in the classroom have proved to be vital to his success during and after his baseball career. Values such as perseverance, discipline, empathy and respect developed in school have driven him to be the man he is today. His message was how values through education (teachable moments) are essential to the development and success of young people today.

Being Decisive Even When Making Hard Decisions — Dan Heath, Author & Senior Fellow, Duke University’s Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship

Author Dan Heath provided insight on how to be decisive, even when making hard decisions. “For business people, the toughest decisions tend to be whether or not to do something,” Heath said. “For administrators, it’s trade-off decisions. Do you give staff raises, for example, or use those funds to reduce class size? Do you spend money on something that’s politically popular in the community or something you think is better for kids?” If you’re a superintendent, your job is largely defined by the number and quality of decisions you make on a daily basis. “You [superintendents] have to make really hard decisions. In fact, the kinds of decisions that ordinary business executives make are child’s play by comparison.”

He stated that four villains plague bad decisions:

- Narrow framing of the dilemma, fixing upon a single presumed remedy. Don’t act only to prevent a bad out some; look for options that promote alternative benefits.
- Collect better information. Many bad decisions are influenced by “conformational bias,” the tendency of people to seek only information and input that reinforces what they already believe or think they know.
- Don’t go with your “gut instinct”. Gut feelings are driven by short-term emotions. Important decisions demand distance; a sense of the bigger picture.
- Deliver procedural justice. Unpopular decisions are hard and are made more difficult if those affected do not understand how the decision was made. Make sure the process of coming to a decision is open and transparent; allow participants an opportunity to be heard and always remain open to re-consideration if circumstances or evidence changes.
A study commissioned by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals found that “approximately half of the schools districts surveyed reported a shortage in the labor pool for K-12 principal positions they were trying to fill ... regardless of the schools’ grade levels and whether they were rural, suburban, or urban schools.” New Mexico school districts are experiencing this same dilemma. In general, there is a shortage of qualified school administrators throughout the state due to the applicant pool becoming more shallow. It has also become evident that fewer educators are interested in school administration as part of career advancement as the role of the principal becomes more complex each year.

NMCEL, in partnership with CES, is currently developing an Aspiring Principals’ Academy to address this ever-present need in the state. The Aspiring Principals’ Academy will be patterned after the successful NMCEL Aspiring Superintendents’ Academy now in its sixth year working with current school and district leaders interested in becoming Superintendents. It is the intent of both NMCEL and CES to create similar success for aspiring school principals at both the elementary and secondary level. By providing a carefully selected group of individuals the specific and appropriate skills, mentorship and a network of support, our goal is to assist the cohort of educators to realize their potential and gain the confidence to assume a school principal position in a school district in New Mexico.

The goal of the Aspiring Principals’ Academy is to:

- Give participants an in-depth look at the skills and personal human resources necessary to do the job of the principal;
- Allow participants to interact with and learn from experienced and proven school principals and other leaders;
- Build the confidence of leaders who have an administrative credential but have not yet ventured into the field of administration;
- Provide participants the opportunity to experience real life duties/projects;
- Build a pool of principal candidates who are well prepared and informed about the role of principal.

Be sure to watch for information on the application process and timelines in the NMCEL April newsletter. Successful applicants will be named in June and the program will kick off in July 2015.

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Nearly 30 superintendents from around the nation were honored at the AASA’s 150th anniversary celebration in San Diego, California last week for completing the 18-month National Superintendent Certification Program. Dr. Lillian Torrez, Superintendent for the Taos Municipal Schools, was the first Superintendent in New Mexico to successfully complete this program and graduate on stage at the opening day of the conference on February 26th.

“This exemplary program has provided me with effective strategies in day-to-day operations as a superintendent, national networking opportunities and best practices in all areas of responsibility. It has been a phenomenal experience and I recommend other New Mexico superintendents apply to the program, stated Dr. Torrez. She went on to say, “The hard work, travel and rigorous program was worth every minute, as my cohort members and I thought in depth about the importance of the superintendent role and the difference we could make in the lives of the children we serve.”

“The political and economic pressures of the superintendent continue to grow, which is why our district leaders must have all the tools and training available in order to succeed on the job,” said Dan Domenech, AASA Executive Director. This program includes forums, seminars, coaching and a mentor to provide opportunities to define and examine issues that surface in real-life situations. These issues include providing world-class instructional leadership, building and managing a district budget, mastering effective communication and political skills, using 21st Century technology effectively in instructional and management, managing superintendent-board relations, designing a career path for oneself and much more related to the important role of the superintendent. Sessions and discussions are high quality which include a national perspective with reflection time. “The AASA National Superintendent Certification Program focuses on sharpening skills that successful superintendents acknowledge are needed to thrive on the job,” added Domenech.

Superintendent Lillian Torrez Completes AASA National Superintendent Certification

Superintendent Lillian Torrez & Paul Benoit

The Golden Apple Foundation of New Mexico is accepting nominations for Excellent Elementary School Teachers. Seven will be awarded the prestigious Excellence in Teaching Award. Anyone can nominate a New Mexico elementary school teacher.

Deadline is April 30th

Nominations can be made online at:

http://www.goldenapplenm.org/nominate.aspx
NMCEL

- Executive Board Meetings:
  - April 2, 2015
  - July 22, 2015, Embassy Suites
- Board Retreat, June 1-2, 2015, Elephant Butte Conference Center
- Summer Conference, July 22-24, Embassy Suites, Albuquerque

NMASBO
- Spring Budget Workshop, April 8-10, 2015 Hotel Albuquerque

NMABE
- State Bilingual Education Conference, April 22-25, 2015, Embassy Suites, Albuquerque

NMSSA
- Meeting at Spring Budget Workshop, April 9, 2015, Hotel Albuquerque
- Meeting at NMSBA Law Conference, May 29, 2015, Albuquerque
- Meeting at NMCEL Conference, July 23, 2015, Embassy Suites

NMSTE
- Tech Support Conference, April 9-10, 2015, Las Cruces
Why Principals Matter —

• Principals change the narrative of what happens in the school.
• Principals make kids feel and be successful.
• Principals show their face to students to make those personal connections.
• Principals celebrate the Dream—students’ dreams.
• Principals help to transform communities.

NMCEL Congratulates Office Manager, Carol Wood

Carol Wood became Mrs. Glenn Chupp on January 3, 2015. During her 17 years at the Coalition she has worked with four Executive Directors, all of whom were in attendance for her special day. She is pictured with Dr. Gloria Rendón, Dr. Veronica Garcia, Dr. Fred Pomeroy, and Tom Sullivan.

NEW! Grades 6 & Up

Revolutionary Math Intervention for the Common Core

For more information

David Martinez, Account Executive
DMartinez@Scholastic.com (505) 259-1102
Cooperative Educational Services (CES), created by five schools in 1979, now serving 89 school districts, 87% of charter schools and all 22 post secondary institutions as members, is celebrating its 35th anniversary. CES, through its vision – “To be the provider of choice in meeting the procurement needs of educational and governmental entities in New Mexico”, contracts for a wide variety of goods and services through more than 400 contracts. CES has over 200 ancillary staff to serve special education students at schools around the state. Their professional staff assists schools in areas of personnel, consulting, HR and business assistance.

CES now provides a comprehensive tool, Curriculum Companion/Standards Insight that provides scope and sequence to teach all core standards. It features easy navigation through teaching modules that allows customization for specific district needs.

CES is YOUR purchasing cooperative. Without you, there would not be a CES. We pride ourselves on giving you great service and appreciate the opportunity to serve you. CES is LOCAL, based in NM, COMPLIANT, with state rules and EASY for you to use. Contact us at 505-344-5470 or visit our website at www.ces.org.

You, too, can enjoy the Benefits of Corporate Sponsorship with NMCEL

Select from a cafeteria style menu of benefits which may include:

- Full color ads in our Electronic Newsletter, The Advocate.
- Prominent Exposure at the Annual Conference including agenda ad and exhibit table.
- Business link to your website from the NMCEL website.
- Letter of Introduction to every school district in the state.

Additional options available.

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Contact the office or visit the website.

505-277-6986

www.nmcel.org
Presentation Proposal

NMCEL SUMMER CONFERENCE 2015
Effective Leadership – Keeping Kids First!

July 22 - July 24, 2015

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 24, 2015 *****

Email form to: 2015presentations@nmcel.org or
Fax to: 505-277-5496
Effective Leadership.... Keeping Kids First!

NMCEL 2015 SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
JULY 22 – 24, 2015
Embassy Suites, 1000 Woodward Pl. NE, Albuquerque, NM
Mail or fax this form to contact above or register online at: nmcel.org

NAME (please print): ______________________________ District: ______________________________

MAILING ADDRESS: ____________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

POSITION: ___________________ E-MAIL: ___________________ PHONE: ________________

EARLY REGISTRATION (received by July 1, 2015)

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, 2015
No-shows will be billed full amount of registration fee.

LATE REGISTRATION FEE (after July 1, 2015 - 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 15th, only on-site registration accepted.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Call Embassy Suites at 505-353-5381 and identify yourself as an attendee to the NM Coalition of Educational Leaders Conference in order to qualify for conference room rates of $115.

should you wish to reserve your room online please visit
https://aws.passkey.com/event/12901822/owner/11533819/home before July 01, 2015!
Attention Education Leaders

**Learning Summit Day 1, April 7**

7:30am-8:30am  Refreshments/Networking Showcase
8:30am-10:00am  General Session I
10:00am-10:30am  Refreshments/Networking Showcase
10:30am-11:30am  Concurrent Session A2: Strategic Planning
                   Josh Steile, Superintendent and James Huismann, Board Chair, Pecos School District
11:30am-12:00pm  Transition
12:00pm-1:00pm  Buffet Luncheon and NM’s superintendents’ AdvancEd Recognition
                   New Mexico Districts Advancing Accountability
                   Deming Public Schools
                   Las Cruces Public Schools
                   Los Lunas Public Schools
                   Loving Municipal Schools
                   New Mexico Military Academy
                   Raton Public Schools
                   Portales Public Schools
                   Ruidoso Public Schools
                   NM School Boards pursuing AdvancEd Accreditation or in the ‘Applicant’ or ‘Candidate’ status will also be acknowledged
1:00pm-1:15pm  Transition
1:15pm-2:00pm  Concurrent Session B2: Measuring, Monitoring & Managing Performance Data
                   Josh Steile, Superintendent and James Huismann, Board Chair, Pecos School District
3:00pm-3:15pm  Transition
3:15pm-4:15pm  Concurrent Session C5: New Mexico Education Best Practices Panel Discussion
4:15pm  Adjourn

**Learning Summit Day 2, April 8**

7:00am-8:00am  Refreshments/Networking Showcase
8:00am-9:00am  General Session II
9:00am-9:30am  Refreshments/Networking Showcase
9:30am-10:30am  General Session III
10:15am-10:30am  Transition
10:30am-11:45am  Concurrent Session D3: Customer & Stakeholder Engagement
                   Josh Steile, Superintendent and James Huismann, Board Chair, Pecos School District
12:00pm-2:00pm  Awards Luncheon
                   21st New Mexico Performance Excellence Awards Ceremony
                   Los Alamos Public Schools 2014 PINO Recognition Recipient
                   Josh Steile, Superintendent and James Huismann, Board Chair, Pecos School District
2:00pm  Adjourn

**Register Today**

Full Summit Registration (2 Days)
Includes the New Mexico Performance Excellence Award’s Ceremony
$349 Member
$399 Non-Member
$249 School Superintendent
$175 School Superintendent (Day 1)

**Hotel Information**

Isleta Resort
11000 Broadway Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87105
1-877-747-5382 or 505-848-1999
Meeting Group: QMN10415

Hotel Special Group Rate $299 Single or Double Occupancy
- Rate valid on April 6 and April 7, 2015
- Rate cut-off date is March 31, 2015
- Each Registrant is responsible for his/her own lodging
LONG TERM IMPACT OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMA ON LEARNING, LIVING AND COPING

This presentation will help change policies and practices throughout the city to create more trauma-informed schools and compassionate communities.

Presenter: Dr. Amy Lansing: Forensic and Clinical Psychologist; Director of Cognitive and Neurobehavioral Studies in Aggression, Coping, Trauma and Stress; University of California, San Diego.

Audience: Teachers and administrators; counselors and social workers; law enforcement; organizations serving youth in the community; community business members; policy makers

Place: CNM Smith Brasher Hall, 717 University Blvd. SE (SW corner of University and Coal)

Date and Time: Friday, March 20, 2015, 8:30am - 4pm

Price: $150 for NMCCS members (Groups over 5 - $120 per person)*
$250 for non-members (Groups over 5 - $200 per person)*
Seating will be limited.

*Schools are approved to use Title II funding for this training.

Email gilda@nmccs.org for details and registration.
To register online, go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D23G72K

- CEU’s for counselors and social workers will be offered at a cost of $50
- Lunch and refreshments will be provided
- Bring your laptops or tablets for interactive session