AASA Honors TJ Parks

New Mexico Superintendent of the Year

AASA — 2016 National Conference on Education
by TJ Parks, Superintendent, Hobbs Schools

Being selected as the 2016 New Mexico Superintendent of the year has been one of the most memorable awards I’ve ever received. There is no greater honor than to be recognized by your peers. As I reminisce about the past recipients, I am humbled to be considered in the same group. I am a proud New Mexican and have spent thirty of my thirty five years in public education working in New Mexico. The collegiality of our small populous state is one of our greatest assets.

I recently attended the National Superintendent’s Conference (AASA) in Phoenix, Arizona. I walked away with a renewed vigor for public education. A student for whom the 2007 movie “Freedom Writers” was made gave an inspirational story of his life. Manny Scott told of his childhood in a gang infested neighborhood where he was beaten, raped and starved. Erin Gruwell, who was played by Hillary Swank, was Manny’s English teacher. Mr. Scott explains how public education literally saved his life.

As educators we get overwhelmed by the day to day stresses of our profession and at times we forget why we chose our vocation. Each and every educator who reads this article has touched the life of multiple children. We have moved children out of poverty and given them options they could only dream about on their own. We have encouraged children to rise to heights that exceed their current situation. We do these things because we are educators, not because we expect anything in return. I worry to think how the world would be different if you hadn’t chosen to be an educator. Whose life depended on you?

Continued on page 5
**From the Executive Director—Rendón’s Reflections**

**Dear Colleagues:**

The 2016 Legislative session is now officially behind us. The results of the session, however, are still to be dealt with throughout the remainder of this year and definitely for next year. The gloom and doom of the state's revenue hung over the entire session. What started out as a positive outlook quickly turned into one of worry and concern. Compared to most departments/divisions, public education fared just a little better in the final budget process. However, that does little to assuage fear of further cuts and belt tightening with already austere budgets. Most of the new $6M increase to public education has been budgeted above the line, meaning it will come directly to districts through the SEG. Although it seems like a good sum of money, increased insurance costs and movement between licensure tiers will eat up most of the funds. A positive aspect of the budget is that Level 2 and Level 3 entry level salaries will now be set at $42K and $52K respectively. A huge debt of gratitude goes to Senator Mimi Stewart who has championed this increase for the past two years. Many districts have been able to raise those minimums and are not required to do more, however those whose minimums are not at this level will be required to provide the increases. The minimal increase to public school funding means that most employees will not receive salary increases again. As was the case a few years ago during the great Recession, most of us will consider ourselves lucky to have a job when the next school year begins. The closing and relocation of several companies and the continued fall of gas and oil prices makes for a negative forecast of revenue and employment for our state.

So where does that leave the hundreds of educators and the thousands of students and parents who are the base of our schools? New Mexico’s educators have never been ones to “throw in the towel” or throw up their hands in despair. Privately they may feel like doing that, but when those kids and parents walk through the school doors, it’s all about the business of educating them. Our real challenge now is making more and better use of our human capital. We have some great minds in our schools and in our communities. Our children are hungry for learning through 21st Century models and practices. Our state may not have manufacturing and large corporate business, but we have huge human potential. Through excellent schools, we can provide the entrepreneurs, the planners and the creative minds that are needed in this new world and improve the economy of our state.

I encourage you to continue your good work in our schools and continue to strive to provide the best education possible for our children. We still are their best hope for a better future.

Sincerely,

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

February 4, 2016, 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
- Action Items:
  - Approval of December 10, 2015 minutes
  - Approval of Financial Statements through January 2016
- Reports:
  - Reports from Affiliates
  - Executive Director Report
  - Communication & Leadership Coordinator Report
  - Office Manager Report
  - Legislative Report

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.

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 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 (NMASCD)
- 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)
Dr. Pedro Noguera—Speaker at AASA

Dr. Pedro Noguera delivered a Thought Leader Session on Thursday, February 11 at the 2016 AASA National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Drawing on research carried out at schools across the U.S. and in South Africa, his presentation provided steps schools can take to mitigate the effects of poverty and other external constraints that can undermine academic achievement.

Dr. Noguera stated that students from low income families typically experience a variety of pressures outside of school that influence their academic performance within school. Poor health and nutrition, concerns related to violence and crime, and house instability are just some of the issues external to schools that significantly impact the academic performance of students. These conditions often also affect students’ perspectives about their future: whether or not they see college as a realistic option, what careers they believe are possible for them, or whether or not they think they will live long enough to lead productive lives. Given the importance of external conditions on student achievement, a growing number of schools are recognizing that they must have the ability to influence the factors that influence the development of children outside of school.

NMCEL will host Dr. Pedro Noguera as the keynote speaker on the first day (July 21) at the summer conference.

Make Plans To Attend the
NMCEL Summer Conference
“Equity and Access Through Leadership”

Featuring
Dr. Pedro Noguera, July 21, 2016
Eric Sheninger, July 22, 2016

Member — $225  Non-Member — $350

Embassy Suites, Albuquerque

Visit the NMCEL website for
Conference and Hotel Registration
(Registration Form Included on page 14)
AASA Honors Superintendent TJ Parks cont’d.

During the acknowledgment of Superintendent of the year, AASA recognized each state’s superintendent of the year along with Canada and Indonesia. The fifty two recipients gathered behind the stage for the initial part of the ceremony. It was such a privilege to visit with superintendents from across the United States. Although we are separated by hundreds, if not thousands of miles, our focus is very similar. All too often, the concerns we face in New Mexico are echoed throughout the U.S. Throughout the conference, speakers emphasized the importance of public education on our nation. The greatest indicator for student success is the relationship between student and teacher and also the relationship between staff in the schools. Kids tend to learn from people they like and trust.

AASA has launched an initiative which I find extremely interesting. Standardized Assessments are part of our culture. Educational Assistants must pass a test to be certified to work for our schools as do administrators and teachers. I’ve told the story many times of my son who graduated from Texas Tech University with a Civil Engineering degree, but was not considered an engineer until he passed the Professional Engineering test. Testing is a part of who and what we are. The AASA initiative of Redefining Ready! expresses that students are more than a test score; it’s important to note “more than” a test score. Testing is and will remain an important measurement, but there are additional processes to gauge a student’s readiness. Redefining Ready! gives multiple indicators used to measure readiness for College or Career. I would encourage each of you to visit the website (redefiningready.org) if you are interested in identifying additional methods of College and Career Readiness.

I conclude by expressing my sincere gratitude to the NM Superintendents’ Association. It is not only an honor but a privilege to work with a great group of professionals with the dedication and desire to positively impact children’s lives. Thank you for the opportunity to represent New Mexico.
**Aspiring Superintendents’ Academy**

The Aspiring Superintendents’ Academy (ASA) is entering its eighth 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 7 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; Bonnie Lightfoot, Roy; Ricky Espinoza, Carrizozo.

Applications are now available for the 2016-2017 school year. Interested individuals are required to complete the application and submit it electronically to NMCEL at asa2016-17@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, 2016**

and applicants will be selected and notified by June 10, 2016.

**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.
Keynoter Manny Scott: ‘Be Someone’s Best Hope’
By Rebecca Shaw/Conference Daily Online, Feb. 11, 2016

“If I can help somebody, as I pass along . . . Then my living shall not be in vain.”

—"If I Can Help Someone" by Mahalia Jackson.

The CEO and founder of Atlanta-based INK International, Manny Scott, an original freedom writer, began his keynote address at the AASA conference’s first general session on Thursday afternoon singing this song, setting the stage on how educators can lead for excellence.

Educators had a major effect on Scott, who described himself as a seemingly unreachable and unteachable student. They influenced how he perceived education. At age 11, he had a teacher who saw the worst in him. But in his senior year of high school, he had a teacher who recognized his potential. He went from dropping out of school at age 14 with F and D grades to graduating as an honor roll student, qualifying to attend UC-Berkeley.

When he was 11, Scott told the conference crowd that a teacher singled him out by asking him why he hadn’t done his homework and questioned him about his clothing in front of the entire class. She told Scott that if he didn’t get his act together, he would turn out just like his dad—in prison. That’s when Scott said he “realized that poverty isn’t just about a lack of money. It is about the lack of access to people who can help you.” Once he received support from teachers, mentors and others, he was able to turn his life around. This began with a stranger on a park bench, who encouraged Scott to go back to school. His support system grew to include the high school principal, who gave him a second chance to re-enroll in school, despite previously flunking out; the lunch lady who embraced him on a bad day, encouraging him to stay in school; and an English teacher.

The latter was Erin Gruwell, whose class was depicted in the 2007 movie “Freedom Writers”.

http://www.freedomwritersfoundation.org

Gruwell reached a group of 150 students, including Scott, who ranked in the lowest 25th percentile of their class, and helped them excel. “Our teacher didn’t lower her standards; she changed her methods and became a student of her students,” said Scott. “She pulled back the curtains and let the sun shine in.”

Gruwell taught Scott how to prevent his troubled past from clouding his future. “She told me I’m not here because of where I’m from. I’m here because of where I’m going.”

Scott told his story not to impress us, but to impress upon us the power that educators have. He begged on behalf of kids that each of us review our commitment to lead, speak, teach, love and coach. “If you do these things on your worst day, you can still be someone’s best hope.”

“ET TU BRUTE?” — George Bickert, Superintendent, Ruidoso

— Marc Space, Superintendent, Grants/Cibola County

Dr. George Bickert and Dr. Marc Space provided valuable insight Friday afternoon at the AASA 2016 conference in Phoenix to a room full of superintendents from across the country. They discussed the perils and pitfalls when a superintendent, external to the district, is hired and is undermined by district staff who were overlooked by the board for the superintendency, or who feel it should have gone to someone else within the organization. They provided five Leadership Team principles: 1) Name on the front of the jersey is more important than the name on the back; 2) Deal with conflict definitively; 3) Be proactive; 4) Focus on the stars and develop more of them; 5) Make everyone practice.

Congratulations to both on being accepted to present at the national conference!
The Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2015, includes a number of key provisions that are aimed at addressing the problems with today’s testing systems in schools. The new law, which replaces No Child Left Behind, provides an opportunity for states and districts to move toward more coherent, aligned assessment systems that support student learning. A forthcoming report from the Center for American Progress looks deeply at this issue, examining the problems and possibility around testing and providing specific recommendations to help federal, state, and local leaders realize the promise of testing to support stronger systems of teaching and learning as they implement ESSA. Ultimately, states and districts should develop coherent, aligned systems of formative, interim, and summative assessments that meaningfully track student progress throughout the year and ultimately drive better student learning gains.

The Center released their report, Implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act: Toward a Coherent, Aligned Assessment System at their summit on January 29, 2016 in Washington, D.C. Dr. George Bickert was invited to participate on the panel to discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with testing as the federal government, states, and school districts implement the new Every Student Succeeds Act. Catherine Brown, Vice President of Education Policy, Center for American Progress provided welcome remarks. Joining Dr. Bickert were MaryEllen Elia, Commissioner, New York State Education Department; Chris Minnich, Executive Director, Council for Chief State School Officers; Chris Bergfalk, Teacher, Washington D.C. Public Schools; Michael Cohen, President, Achieve; and Janel George, Senior Education Policy Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Ruidoso Municipal Schools was identified in this report on page 34 highlighting their district-wide initiative to change the culture of testing and ensure tests are far more valuable to both teachers and students. As part of this effort, Ruidoso instituted weekly mini-assessments under a practice model in reading and math. These assessments are not called tests and are not punitive. Instead, they are intended to provide students with a chance to show what they have learned and allow them to track their own progress while also giving teachers data on how well students are doing. These mini-assessments, which are referred to as “math monsters” and “brave readers”, are administered once weekly and are aligned with New Mexico’s state academic standards. The report is available online at the Center for American Progress and a video of the panel discussion is available on YouTube. For additional information about Ruidoso’s mini-assessments, contact Dr. George Bickert, Superintendent, Ruidoso Municipal Schools.

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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 seeking presenters for the breakout sessions on July 21 & 22. Sample topics to consider:

- Strategies for District-wide Success for All Students
- Distributed Leadership to Meet Needs of Every Student, Every Day
- Next Generation Leadership: Building a Pipeline of Great School Leaders

Please submit your proposal for consideration no later than April 25, 2016. The conference Presenter Proposal Form is included on page 13 of the newsletter and is also available on the NMCEL website.

For more information, contact High Plains REC at 575-445-7090.
**Upcoming Events**

**NMCEL**
- Executive Board Meetings:
  - April 14, 2016, CES
  - July 20, 2016, Embassy Suites
- Board Retreat, June 6-7, 2016, Taos
- Summer Conference, July 20-22, Embassy Suites, Albuquerque

**NMAA**
- Hall of Fame Banquet, March 10, 2016
- Commission Meeting, May 18, 2016
- Board of Directors Meeting, June 1, 2016

**NMASBO**
- Strategic Planning Meeting, March 4-5, 2016, Hotel Albuquerque
- Spring Budget Workshop, March 30-April 1, 2016, Hotel Albuquerque
- Board Meeting, March 31, 2016, Hotel Albuquerque
- Board Meeting, May 12, 2016, Web Conference Call
- Board Meeting, June 9, 2016, Web Conference Call

**NMSSA**
- Meeting at Spring Budget Workshop, March 31, 2016, Hotel Albuquerque
- Meeting at NMSBA Law Conference, June 3, 2016, Tentative Date
- Meeting at NMCEL Conference, July 21, 2016, Embassy Suites

**NMSTE**
- NM CTO Clinic, Leading & Supporting Digital Learning, March 3-4, 2016, eCADEMY, Albuquerque

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**Become a Corporate Sponsor**

Full corporate sponsorship is available for $5,000, a 30% discount over purchasing options separately.

NMCEL can custom tailor a package that meets your corporate needs.

Contact the office or visit the website.

505-277-6986

www.nmcel.org

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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.
New Mexico’s Top Youth Volunteers Selected in 21st Annual National Awards Program

Cameron Estrada, 17, of Roswell and Cody Osborn, 13, of Belen were named New Mexico’s top youth volunteers of 2016 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards is conducted by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Each will receive $1,000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip in early May to Washington, D.C.

Cameron, a senior at Roswell High School, formed a therapy group at her high school to help girls deal with the pressures of being a teenager. Cameron herself was feeling very stressed from the demands of schoolwork and extracurricular activities when she decided to seek the advice of her school’s mental health counselor. “This visit led to my discovery that there were probably many other teens at my high school that were having the same issues,” she said. Cameron began convening lunch meetings with girls whom she thought would benefit and as a result, participation in meetings increased. In addition to dynamic discussions, the meetings often feature guest speakers on issues such as healthy eating habits, dating violence, alcohol and substance abuse and suicide prevention. Cameron also leads her group in an annual drive to collect necessities for the homeless. Due to the success of her initiative, a similar group has sprung up for boys at the school and a local middle school has followed suit. Cameron is now advocating for teens across the country by serving on the National Youth Advisory Council for School Based Health Centers in Washington, D.C.

Cody, an eighth-grader at Holy Ghost Catholic School, has volunteered as a group leader and games facilitator over the past three years at his parish’s summer vacation Bible school camp. “I first got involved with the camp when I saw a flier at my parish announcing the camp, and how volunteers were needed to put on the program,” said Cody. “I have come back to this program every year since it was fun and provided a way to serve my parish.”

For the first two years, Cody was a group leader, responsible for guiding an assigned age group to various activities throughout the weeklong camp. More recently, he has assisted two adults in administering games for the young campers. He prepares materials for each day’s events, and cleans up after each session. Cody also has recruited others to help. “I get a sense of accomplishment and joy from this project, seeing the smiles on kids’ faces as they have fun,” he said. “It has shown me the great feeling doing service gives me, and brings me back to it every year.”

The program also recognized two other New Mexico students as Distinguished Finalists. Each will receive an engraved bronze medallion. The finalists are:

Joseph Davis, 18, a senior at Belen High School, spearheaded a drive two years in a row that has provided at least 100 frozen turkeys and $3,000 in monetary donations for food to support Thanksgiving dinners at two local food pantries. He was asked in 2014 to lead the National Wild Turkey Federation program Turkey Hunter’s Care Drive, wrote and distributed a funding letter to local businesses for donations and worked with a partner in 2015 with the goal of increasing the amount of donations.

Joanna O’Neill, 18, is a senior at Los Alamos High School and a member of the Los Alamos County 4-H. She is the youngest certified member of the National Ski Patrol in Los Alamos, where she has been volunteering for the past four years. Joanna, who is a mentor in the Young Adult Patroller program to encourage other youth to get involved, also administers first aid, transports patients and enforces ski area rules.
EQUITY AND ACCESS
THROUGH LEADERSHIP

July 20-22, 2016
EMBASSY SUITES
Albuquerque, NM

NMCEL CONFERENCE 2016
Presentation Proposal

NMCEL SUMMER CONFERENCE 2016
Equity and Access Through Leadership
July 20 - July 22, 2016

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, 2016 *****

Email form to: 2016presentations@nmcel.org or
Fax to: 505-277-5496
Equity and Access Through Leadership

NMCEL 2016 SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
JULY 20 – 22, 2016
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, 2016)

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, 2016.
No-shows will be billed full amount of registration fee.

LATE REGISTRATION FEE (after July 1, 2016 - 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 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.
or should you wish to reserve your room online please visit:
http://tinyurl.com/Hotel-Reg-Click-Here

before July 08, 2016!
Today more than ever, institutions must prepare their students for careers of tomorrow by fostering and perpetuating enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. AdvancED STEM Certification provides a proven, research-based framework and criteria from which to assess and validate the quality, rigor and substance of STEM educational programs. Through this certification protocol, institutions and programs build awareness, increase expectations and demonstrate a commitment and ability to deliver high-quality STEM education.

AdvancED STEM Certification is a mark of STEM distinction and excellence for those institutions that are granted the certification.

AdvancED STEM Certification:
- Combines a data-driven internal review process and an external diagnostic review process to provide educators with detailed findings and a clear roadmap to stimulate and sustain dramatic improvement.
- Demonstrates a school’s ongoing commitment and capacity to prepare students for STEM fields of study and work.
- Communicates to postsecondary business and industry leaders that the school is committed to driving higher levels of student achievement.
- Requires STEM school leadership to engage stakeholders in an honest and continual evaluation of policies, strategies and learning conditions in order to achieve desired outcomes.

Contact us to learn more about AdvancED STEM Certification: STEMcertification@advanc-ed.org

You can also contact the AdvancED New Mexico Office for further information:
Dr. Susanna Murphy, Director: smurphy@advanc-ed.org
Jim Collins, student and teacher of leadership and what “makes great companies tick,” will keynote Quality New Mexico’s National Learning Summit “Excellence by Choice” on April 12-13 at Isleta Resort in Albuquerque. Registration is available at www.qualitynewmexico.org.

Jim Collins has authored or co-authored six books that have sold in total more than ten million copies worldwide. **GOOD TO GREAT**, the #1 bestseller, examines why some companies and leaders make the leap to superior results. His most recent book, **GREAT BY CHOICE**, is about thriving in chaos – why some do, and others don’t – and the leadership behaviors needed in a world beset by turbulence, disruption, uncertainty, and dramatic change.

The National Learning Summit also features “best practices” from national role model organizations that have achieved the nation’s highest level of recognition for performance excellence, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award: Elevations Credit Union (CO), Hill Country Memorial (TX), Park Place Lexus (TX), Pewaukee School District (WI), St. David’s Healthcare (TX), and VA Cooperative Studies Program Clinical Research Pharmacy Coordinating Center (NM).

Quality New Mexico’s mission is to drive performance excellence in New Mexico. The non-profit, 501(c)3, organization provides performance excellence training, assessments, coaching, and public recognition to those organizations that have achieved various levels of improvement on their excellence journey. Quality New Mexico is the official administrator of the New Mexico Performance Excellence Awards, in accordance with NM Executive Order 2012-003. For information about Quality New Mexico or the 2016 National Learning Summit, visit www.qualitynewmexico.org or contact 505-944-2001.