Deming Supt. Earns National Award

Serving the educational needs of students with an emphasis on Latinx youth is the basis of a national award bestowed to Deming Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Arsenio Romero. The Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) selected him as Superintendent of the Year for his efforts in building capacity, promoting best practices and transforming education.

“It’s really exciting and nice to be recognized by your peers for the work going on in our district,” Romero said. “It’s a reflection of everyone’s hard work in Deming.”

To be nominated, 25% or more of the district’s students must be Latinx. (See story about Latinx on page 9). His student population is 89% Latino/Hispanic and 40% ELL. Romero cites several accomplishments by his staff since he arrived in the border city two years ago, including increasing graduation rates, assessment gains, top-rated CTE programs, and an increase in the number of students earning the bilingual literacy diploma seals.

The nomination had to reflect evidence in the following areas: committed to student excellence; programs designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students, with an emphasis on Latinx students; and have firm ties to parents and the community.

Dr. Romero attended a gala in Washington, DC where he was recognized by ALAS for his work with Latinx students

Hagerman Municipal Schools: Rural Areas Providing World-Class Education

Rural communities, small in population, sometimes provide great challenges. In an era of expanded educational freedom, families must be treated as customers with choices and not as captive audiences. In Hagerman, we are turning those challenges into opportunities to build our educational system while simultaneously contributing to our economic growth. It should be recognized that rural communities provide a much-needed industry to New Mexico and beyond. Our small towns are a part of our state’s unique culture and diversity.

Adult and Community Education

The district recently participated in a town conference, bringing together stakeholders to discuss, identify, and address challenges and change(s) to improve economic growth in Hagerman. Additionally, deep discussions took place in the area of recruiting new business and building a bridge for our schools to focus on agri-science.

— continued p. 6
Our staff all have successful experience in working and coaching in high-needs schools to improve student achievement.

NIET will work shoulder-to-shoulder with you to build capacity around the following strategies:

- Creating high expectations for instruction coupled with strong, meaningful support
- Teachers leading their own development
- Investing in people to build a positive, collegial culture
- Strengthening effective leadership—district leaders, principals, and teacher leaders

For more information about NIET services, please contact: Patrice Pujol at ppujol@niet.org, or visit niet.org
Colleagues:
Another year in the books. This time of year, as I recall, is one of considerable activity as you prepare your budget for next year, perform those final evaluations, set up staffing for next year, graduate those students that you have worked so hard to get across the stage, and find the inspiration to begin “visioning” where you and your district are heading next year. From my chair, I want to recognize your hard work and give you thanks on behalf of all of us in the system of public education in New Mexico. Recently I found data that shows your hard work is accomplishing many of our goals. For example, our graduation rate in New Mexico has been on a steady increase and has moved New Mexico onto par with our nation and in many cases, beyond – congratulations!

As you complete the final consideration of the 2019-2020 budget, thank you for your careful planning and consideration of the challenge of providing equity of access and working to assure that ALL of our students are encouraged to succeed. Many of you have joined in the process of determining what kind of calendar works best for your community. Many of you have talked to me about the challenge of balancing your resources, providing your staff with effective PD, and developing a local answer to how you increase instruction to those who need it while balancing the desires of your staff to take much deserved time off to recharge and prepare for next year. Thank you for your careful considerations and your thoughtful choices.

The state Legislature and the Governor worked hard to provide adequate resources for the public school mission. We will have an opportunity to interact with the LFC, LESC, PED, PED, and Governor’s Office as we work in the interim before next year to review the decisions about extended school year, K-5+, salary increases and their minimums, Educational Retirement Act, our health insurance coverages, and the investment necessary to meet the Martinez/Yazzie Lawsuit. It appears that our state resource will be good for next year and the ability to hold reserves will apparently continue. It is my belief that we still have some work to do to reach the proper balances in our practice which recognizes the need to fully support our students while balancing the fact that “one size doesn’t fit all.” I look to each of you for your insights and leadership in this regard.

The NMCEL Board will be meeting in June to set our goals for the upcoming year. That retreat will focus on the exceptional work that you have participated in over the last two years to “vision” New Mexico Public Education. I challenge each of you to continue that dialogue as we move into the 2019-2020 school year. I appreciate the agreement and inclination of our new Secretary and her Cabinet to embrace our vision and to integrate her efforts to align with each of us in the field to assure alignment of effort and resource.

Secretary Trujillo will be the opening keynote for our summer conference, which will be at Embassy Suites in — continued p. 12
NMCEL Affiliates

- Albuquerque Public Schools Principals Association (APSPA)
- Alliance for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning (NMSU)
- Cooperative Educational Services (CES)
- Coalition of State Supported Educational Programs (COSSEP)
- Eastern New Mexico Educational Resource Center (ENMERC)
- New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA)
- New Mexico Association of Educational Retirees (NMAER)
- New Mexico Association of Bilingual Educators (NMABE)
- New Mexico Association of Elementary School Principals (NMAESP)
- New Mexico Association of School Business Officials (NMASBO)
- New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals (NMASSP)
- New Mexico Council of Administrators of Special Education (NMCASE)
- New Mexico Public Facilities Management Association (NMPFMA)
- New Mexico School Personnel Association (NMSPA)
- New Mexico School Superintendents’ Association (NMSSA)
- New Mexico Society for Technology in Education (NMSTEE)
- Regional Educational Cooperatives Association (RECA)
- Southeastern New Mexico Educational Resource Center (SNMERC)

NMSSA Concluding Successful Year

Dr. Lillian Torrez, President

It has been a pleasure to serve as your NMSSA President this school year. Our efforts to ensure that necessary funding was appropriated for our districts was a worthwhile challenge as we worked diligently with our state legislators, state/federal officials and congressional delegation. We pushed our legislative agenda forward, harder and further than we ever thought possible. Our ideas, opinions and recommendations were heard by bringing all of us together to create the NMSSA Policy Platform to Transform New Mexico education and our voices were heard by all. I believe our hard work paid off with the legislative bills, policies, teacher/principal/staff increases and so much more that will benefit the children we have been entrusted to educate.

We continued our bi-monthly conference calls all year with both of our Secretaries of Education from two administrations. We stayed strong during the transition and offered support to all who needed it. Together we have accomplished so much this year, and we stand in a positive position for the children of New Mexico for their future.

In order to continue our focused leadership in education, we must continue to work as a team partnering with NMCEL, NMSBA, all Region RECs and other organizations to align our priorities to provide every child an opportunity to reach their goals and dreams. Thank you for your faith and trust in me as I have enjoyed working with everyone of you. I wish you a restful and safe summer! Warm Regards,

— Dr. Lillian Torrez, NMSSA President

NMCEL Scholarship Winners

Two seniors have been selected as recipients of the NMCEL Scholarships for 2019. Bowen Perry of Alamogordo High School and Alissa Puderbaugh of Grants High School each will receive a $3,000 scholarship for college.

Bowen’s activities include Student Council President, Corp Commander in AFJROTC, the ski team and local politics. He is a golden scholar, a member of the National Honor Society and was a student panelist at the Sen. Pete Domenici Public Policy Conference. He wants to become a high school government teacher and eventually serve with the NM Public Education Department or the US Department of Education.

Alissa has earned an academic letter and has had a 4.0 GPA or higher throughout high school. She is a member of the National Honor Society and student government. She has twice been a qualifier in the state science fair, placing second in microbiology in 2018. She’s also active in photography and has lettered in varsity volleyball. Alissa aspires to follow in her mother’s footsteps by becoming a teacher.
Measured Progress Assessment Services

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Our content experts have helped create and implement effective assessment programs for dozens of states; now we bring that level of expertise directly to districts. Measured Progress has been trusted for more than 30 years to deliver standards-aligned measurement that supports student learning. Whatever your district’s current—or future—assessment needs, Measured Progress stands ready to help. Learn more at:

www.measuredprogress.org/assessment-services

It’s all about student learning!
Leveraging Changes to increase Rural Opportunities

To help students navigate new skillsets, the high school built a FarmBot. This initiative, to be implemented in 2019-20, is an open-source and scalable automated precision farming machine and software package designed from the ground up with today’s technologies. Similar to today’s 3D printers and CNC milling machines, FarmBot hardware employs linear guides in the X, Y, and Z directions that allow for tooling such as plows, seed injectors, watering nozzles, and sensors, to be precisely positioned and used on plants and soil. Students will utilize research and engineering concepts to connect back to our community’s roots and build new tools to grow crops.

Global Business

Hagerman’s conceptual framework establishes the shared vision for student and institutional success. And, creating an environment where students research and apply engineering mindsets was the reason Hagerman implemented SystemsGo. The program teaches engineering design process using the building of a rocket as the primary project. Teams design, simulate, program, build, and ultimately fly a rocket either to one mile or to the speed of sound. The real work begins after launch when the team has to analyze data and complete mission reports.

Leveraging Partnerships

Preparing students for the challenge of these kinds of work also requires strong partnerships with business and educational teams. Hagerman has teamed up with RCC, HollyFrontier, PY foundation, PVREC8, universities and Summit Learning to help. This is evidenced by the opportunity to use the University of Chicago Financial Literacy framework. The high school has implemented The University of Chicago Financial Literacy curriculum that gear students up for life after high school. A world-class education is built around partner colleges such as ENMU Portales and Roswell in agriculture, core, and elective courses. Hagerman’s next leap will come from vocational training support provided by local businesses in the airplane and oilfield services industries.

Research

Hagerman Middle and High Schools have received a grant from Summit Learning—a first for a New Mexico school—to participate in intensive professional development for core teachers, a curriculum developed for core courses, student mentorship and common-sense assessment. The Summit team is providing support along the way for successful implementation of the coordinated framework. We found students who beta-tested the curriculum are more engaged in classroom activities, producing more relevant products, and growing more self-directed in their learning. We have taken a stance that the lack of staff, due to being rural and low income, will not be a barrier to providing a world of educational opportunities for our students. Hagerman is more poised than ever to help grow our community without losing sight of our family-focus.
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Cybersecurity is Top Concern for School System Technology

The results of a national K-12 survey shows that cybersecurity is the number one priority for school system technology administrators. The “K-12 IT Leadership Survey Report” also shows that the leading challenges for IT leaders is the lack of budget resources, the need for more professional development and removing department silos within their districts. (See Table #1 below.) The survey results were released by CoSN (the Consortium for School Networking). The New Mexico chapter for CoSN is the New Mexico Society for Technology in Education.

During an era of school districts collecting more data, security threats are also increasing. Research shows that educational institutions are specifically being targeted by global cybercrime organizations, according to the survey report. In Table #2, the results show the survey aligns with the CoSN 2018/19 Infrastructure Survey which found that broadband to classrooms has significantly improved and is a lower priority for most districts.

Other findings from the report include:

- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) strategies are declining in popularity, likely due to lower cost of devices in today’s market;
- 95% of IT leaders agree that addressing the “homework gap” for districts is a concern, which is a 30% change from when leaders used to indicate digital equity was not an important issue for their district;
- Print is not dead; 67% of districts still print at least half of their instructional materials;
- Lack of ethnic and racial diversity in school district IT leadership remains a serious problem in most districts;
- The percentage of women in IT leadership has declined, with only 28% in leadership roles.
- There is some progress in the area of interoperability, but only Single Sign-On (SSO) has been fully implement-ted in more than one-fourth of all districts.

The entire report provides information on how educational leaders are leveraging technology and how that leads to potential changes. This year’s findings are based on 48 questions which collected 36,600 data points. Respondents were from large-, medium- and small-size districts, and from low-income districts. It was done with the cooperation of multiple sponsors and partners to CoSN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE #1</th>
<th>Top 3 Challenges 2017-2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Budget constraints and</td>
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<td>lack of resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Relevant training and</td>
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<td>professional development</td>
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<td>unavailable</td>
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<td>#3</td>
<td>Existence of silos in the</td>
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<td>district, which make it</td>
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<td>difficult to work together</td>
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<td>on technology planning</td>
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<tr>
<th>TABLE #2</th>
<th>Top 3 Priorities 2017-2019</th>
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<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Mobile Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Broadband &amp; Network Capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Cybersecurity</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Tie for #1

— Information courtesy of CoSN,
Keith Krueger, CEO, and Board Chair Dr. Tom Ryan,
Chief Information & Strategy Officer, Santa Fe Public Schools

Deming Supt.(cont. p. 1)

Romero has been an educator for 23 years, including three years as assistant superintendent in Roswell and principalships in Las Cruces. The 44-year-old said he’s honored for the national recognition and said “I look forward to what the future brings.”

What is Latinx?

As you read on page 1, Deming Superintendent Dr. Arsenio Romero was recently honored by ALAS for his district’s work with Latinx students. “Latinx” (pronounced: la-teen-ex), an adjective used since 2007, is a gender-neutral alternative to Latino/Latina. The word is gaining popularity and is part of a linguistic movement to move beyond gender binaries and is inclusive of the intersecting identities of Latin Americans, according to writer Jack Qu’emi. “Latinx is an attempt in Spanish to include non-binary people, those who are neither male nor female.” Read these articles for a more indepth explanation of Latinx:
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Science Techbook helps teachers transition to the NGSS framework with a simple-to-use and highly interactive program. It integrates multimedia, including video, audio, text, and interactives, with hands-on activities and virtual labs that provide a rich and engaging learning experience for students.

Learn more about Science Techbook for NGSS and our professional learning resources at:

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2019 NMCEL Summer Conference

We look forward to seeing you at the 2019 NMCEL Summer Conference - July 23-26, 2019 at the ABQ Embassy Suites Hotel. Under the theme “All Ships Rise Together!” the conference begins on Tuesday with the NMCEL Executive Board meeting, followed with a relaxing day of golf on Wednesday. The NMCEL golf tournament will be at the Ladera Golf Course. Sponsorships are available.

Thursday begins with registration and breakfast followed by the day’s opening remarks, keynote address and multiple breakout sessions. The final day features more informative sessions and the conference wraps up by noon with two $300 cash prizes!

Take a peek at the draft agenda and take advantage of the early registration price by registering here by July 1. Interested in the 2019 NMCEL Conference Golf Tournament? Consider sponsoring at one of the following levels. Sign up online for a sponsorship or call 505-217-2345 for more information.

Aspiring Superintendents’ Academy DEADLINE!

Applications to join the 2019-2020 Aspiring Superintendents’ Academy (ASA) are due by the close of business on May 31, 2019. This opportunity is for administrators who aspire to become superintendents in New Mexico districts. Interested individuals are required to complete the simple application and submit it electronically to NMCEL at stan@nmcel.org.

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 written 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;
➢ Pay the $1,000 registration fee, if selected.

Visit the NMCEL web site for the application form, or call NMCEL at 505-217-2345 for further information.

NM Association of School Business Officials
Terry Dean, Executive Director

We have been very busy in the NMASBO office working on the implementation of a new membership software. The new software solution will allow us greater opportunity to engage with members and provide information and networking opportunities in a “social media” type environment. We will also be able to host a library of policies, procedures, RFPs, etc., for members’ use. We are planning to roll-out the platform on June 1. Be on the lookout for more information.

We are currently preparing for the 2019 Fall Conference that will be at Hotel Encanto in Las Cruces, Sept. 18-20, 2019. We’ll be releasing a draft agenda around July 1 and will open the conference registration in mid-July. We will also be conducting our SFO study group again at the Conference. The SFO is a certification program administered by ASBO International. The study group participants will take the SFO exam at the end of the Conference. For more information on the SFO program: www.asbointl.org/certification.

This summer, NMASBO officers and staff will be presenting at the School Law Conference in June. In addition to the budget session, we will have a session dedicated to student activity funds. And, we’ll be presenting a budget-related session at the July NMCEL conference. This session is targeted toward the administrator who isn’t the chief financial officer and we will discuss practical issues on how to manage your budget and budget planning for next year.

— Terry Dean

Straight Talk (cont. from p. 3)

Albuquerque from July 23-26. That keynote will be at our first General Session on Thursday, July 25.

This Summer Conference promises to be among the best we have had. Please plan to attend. You will find more information on our website.

As I travel the state and meet with many of you, I continue to be impressed with your drive and your commitment to reaching out to meet the needs of your students. Thank you for your professional perspectives and your dedication to our students!

— Best Regards,
Stan
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Staying Current

Here are this month’s suggestions from Stan’s desk, computer and mobile device. Send your “Staying Current” suggestions to info@nmcel.org:

► WHAT’S ONLINE
Teachers’ Summer Reading List
Yes, some teachers and staff do like to read during the summer months. There is an online book list from Teach for America that should satisfy their varying needs. Give it a look.

► FEATURED VIDEOS
What Constitutional Rights Do Students Have?
In light of recent actions by a school district’s attempt to prevent a student-run newspaper from publishing a controversial article, it’s interesting to hear about other topics such as hairstyle or dress which also cross into the gray area of students’ rights.

► GOOD READS
Motivating & Inspiring Teachers: The Educational Leader’s Guide for Building Staff Morale by Todd Whitaker, Beth Whitaker and Dale Lumpa
You may want to take some time this summer to consider new ways of improving staff morale in your school or organization. This 2nd edition book is a good choice for administrators; it offers commonsense suggestions.
Amazon Paperback: $22-$32; Kindle $32.

Scholar Athletes

The New Mexico Athletic Directors Association announced the 2019 NMADA Male and Female Scholar Athlete Award winners. The female Scholar Athlete is Madison Cross of Piedra Vista High in Farmington while the male Scholar Athlete is Jason Lyons of La Cueva High of Albuquerque.

Madison, nominated by AD Clay Foster, has earned 10 varsity letters participating in soccer and track & field and has earned academic all-district honors. With a GPA of 4.4, she plans to attend NMSU to study genetics.

Jason, nominated by AD LeeAnn Moores, has earned seven varsity letters in soccer, tennis and basketball. He is active in church and as a volunteer. With a 4.35 GPA, he will attend St. Edward’s University in Austin, TX and plans to continue playing soccer.

Nominations were from current NMADA members and all nominees will receive NMADA certificate awards. There were 13 female and 9 male scholar athletes nominated for the statewide awards. The awards include an individual plaque, school plaque and a $1,500 scholarship for each of the two awards.

—Tammy Richards, Executive Director NMADA
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Download bulb’s “Skills for the Future” eBook to discover what the latest research reveals about student competencies of the future and how your institution can begin to “measure what matters” by leveraging the powerful effects of digital portfolios.

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**NMCEL**

**New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders**

**OUR MISSION**

The New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders (NMCEL) provides the effective foundation for proactive educational advocacy for public education in New Mexico.

**OUR VISION**

Our vision is that the New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders (NMCEL) membership is relied upon as the experts in the strategic guidance of educational policy and practice in New Mexico.

NMCEL.ORG