One of the highlights of the NMCEL Summer Conference held in July in Albuquerque was an Awards Dinner where students and educators throughout the state are honored. The dinner was the culmination of the conference that brought together educators from across the U.S.

Always a special part of the ceremony is recognition of graduates who earned the NMCEL Scholarships. Graduated seniors Bowen Perry of Alamogordo High and Alyssa Puderbaugh of Grants High were selected as the 2019 recipients of two, $3,000 NMCEL scholarships. Both students are studying education.

“We’re so very proud of these outstanding young adults,” said Stan Rounds, executive director.

Also recognized for two different reasons was Retired Superintendent Jamie Widner of Melrose Municipal Schools. He was named the 2019 Superintendent of the Year by the New Mexico School Superintendent’s Association and is a Hall of Fame inductee.

“Moriarty’s Story Continued

Have you ever put the cart before the horse? If so, you may be familiar with the challenges involved in getting the cart to actually move in the direction you’ve intended, not to mention the quandary of getting the horse to embrace the idea that the cart does, in fact, need to move, and that can’t happen unless there is some brute equine force to power it!

The Moriarty-Edgewood School district is no stranger to this scenario, and we will readily admit that we put the cart before the horse as the analogy applies to our own journey toward effectively integrating instructional technology in our classrooms. This is our story, shared in the hopes that other districts might avoid our early missteps and benefit from the creative ways we have addressed challenges to get the horse and the cart moving in the right direction with noteworthy successes along the way.
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Welcome back to School Year 2019-2020! As each of you gear up into the new year, I am excited to stay connected with each of you. I plan on being in as many regions and districts as I can this year to maintain an understanding of the challenges and successes that each of you are experiencing. You each make a difference in our students and, therefore, our state.

We welcome our new Secretary of Education. His name is Dr. Ryan Stewart and his most recent duty was in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I had the opportunity to meet him personally with the Governor just prior to the official announcement on August 12. We look forward to helping him to learn New Mexico and I have offered to take him around as I traverse this great state.

Good news regarding this transition is that the core Cabinet Team that Secretary Karen Trujillo had established is continuing to work hard at moving our joint agenda forward. I provided the Governor with a letter expressing, in part, our support of that team and had the chance to reinforce that support in a face-to-face meeting with her on August 2. (As a side-bar, we congratulate Karen Trujillo who was appointed the Interim Superintendent of the Las Cruces Public Schools beginning on Sept. 10, 2019!)

The NMCEL Board and the NMSSA Executive Council have agreed to a set of Strategic Initiatives that are the next steps in our Strategic Plan adopted in 2018-2019. These will guide our focus for this year and for the Legislative Session of 2020. They are as follows:

1. Adequate/Stable/Sufficient funding including a study to determine what is sufficient funding including programs and positions that are in concert with the Profile of a New Mexico graduate, which is supported through time with bipartisan support (reaching consensus).

2. Improve and develop the recruitment/retention of all educators through licensure practice, reciprocity, educator pipeline, and recruitment practices including ERB rules so that a fully developed ecosystem is created and enabled through time.

3. Develop a focus and practice which creates “safe schools” environments for all students. This assures that terms such as “at-risk” etc. are redefined and removes denigrating references and upholds the values of every student.

4. Create an opportunity for all students which combines college prep academics with technical/vocational workforce development, so all graduates are workforce ready.

5. Provide a comprehensive definition of “at-risk” and ensure that funding is earmarked and attached to
THE ADVOCATE

**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 (NMSTE)
- Regional Educational Cooperatives Association (RECA)
- Southeastern New Mexico Educational Resource Center (SNMERC)

**NMCEL President for 2019/20**

**Will Hawkins**

The school year is well underway for many, if not all of us! I pray that each and everyone of you find peace and inspiration in your servanthood as an educator.

— Will Hawkins, NMCEL President

**NMASBO**

**Terry Dean, CPA, Executive Director**

If we stop long enough to do an inventory of all the changes for the 2019/2020 school year, we would compile an impressive list. Let’s take 10 seconds and see how many items we can name:

- Extended Learning Time
- K-5 Plus (formerly known as K-3 Plus)
- T&E to TCI (continued)
- New salary schedules
- At-risk programs
- New Governor
- New Secretary of Education
- ¿Que mas?

Thinking about all the changes is exhausting. On top of all this, you had to deal with a change in the Association Management Software (AMS) for NMASBO. As always, you have adapted to the change very well. We, at the association office, have been adjusting to the new AMS platform and we have it pretty well under control.

One of the new features of the software is the use of “Communities.” The idea is that list-serve type questions and comments are put in the “community” allowing you to easily search for a topic as opposed to going through six-months of email. Due to the functionality of the AMS, we had to do an early reset on how the new List-serve works. Based upon the usage of the new List-Serve, it appears that we may need to do another reset. *Let me know what you think.*

Another advantage of the communities, you have a personal user profile in the system, and you can upload your photo into your profile. We encourage you to do so. Quite frankly, this helps all our users/members to put the name with the face. It is easier to remember people’s names and locations when you can put a face to it. Who knows, we may have a prize drawing just for those that have put their photo on their profile.

We have started compiling a “Resource Library” in our General Members Community. To access the library, go to the General Member Community page and select “Pages” on the small menu bar just below the page title. From the “Pages” drop down menu, select “Resource Library.” We are interested in adding more documents/practice aids for the library soon. So, if you have an RFP for widgets and you think it would be helpful to your colleagues, please email the document to me at terry@nmasbo.org and we will make sure to get it into the resource library.

We understand that you are incredibly busy people. I encourage you to use the communities and please visit with me at the fall conference in Las Cruces and give me your thoughts on what we can do to make the software work better for you and the Association.

—Terry
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2019/20 NMSSA Executive Council

Back Row, L-R: Robert Brown (Region 5), Dennis Roch (President-Elect), Stacy Diller (Region 3), Ann Lynn McIlroy (Region 6), Ricky Williams (Rural South) and Loren Cushman (Region 8). Front Row, L-R:Lillian Torrez (Past-President), Jo Lynn Gallegos (Business Manager), Travis Dempsey (President), Stan Rounds (Executive Director), Bonnie Lightfoot (Rural North) and Sue Cleveland (Region 4). Not pictured: Eugene Schmidt (Region 1), Anthony Casados (Region 2), Raquel Reedy (At Large Districts: ABQ), Karen Trujillo (At Large Districts: Las Cruces), and Kim Mizel (Secretary – newly elected).

NMAA/NMADA Conference

The 2019 NMAA and NMADA Fall Leadership Conference will be Sept. 29-30 in Albuquerque at the Marriott Pyramid Hotel. Featured will be several NIAAA Leadership Training Courses on Sunday along with a general session for mid school athletic directors and additional networking opportunities during the NMADA Social. Monday will then feature numerous professional development opportunities along with the NMAA’s Annual Report & Meeting of Schools. These sessions are mandatory as each school must be represented by their athletic director or designee.

Check out the full conference information on the NMAA website. There is a registration packet along with information on hotel reservation. Click on the NMAA website to also get information about the Leadership Training Classes.

— Courtesy of NMAA

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AdvancED | Measured Progress are now Cognia™

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Widner (right) has dedicated 33 years of service to education and to students. The Superintendent of the Year shared a moment with Supt. of Animas Public Schools Loren Cushman who also attended the banquet.

— Tomás E. Salazar, 2019 Earl Nunn Recipient (right). Salazar, born and raised in San Miguel County, has an extensive background that includes teacher, professor, program manager, coach, director and State Representative.

— Sonia Lawson, Administrator of the Year, NM Council of Administrators of Special Education (right) was joined by her mother for the honors ceremony. Lawson is entering her 24th year in education and is the Assistant Supt. of Academic Services for Roswell Independent Schools.

— Dr. Sue Byo Passell, Administrator of the Year, NM School Personnel Association (right) has been the Exec. Director for Human Resources at Rio Rancho Public Schools for the past 16 years. She also has served on Boards and has conducted various music organizations in New Mexico and Florida. She is pictured with Stan Rounds and Cindy Sims, NMSPPA President.

— Dr. Vicky Chavez, Administrator of the Year, NM Regional Education Cooperative Association is entering her 23rd year in education. She is the Exec. Director of the Regional Education Cooperative 10 and has served many years as a teacher, principal, and instructional coach.

— Tami Coleman, Administrator of the Year, NM Association of School Business Officials (NMASBO) is the APS Chief Financial Officer. She was also recognized by the NMASBO in 2018 as the School Business Official of the Year.

— Melissa Galaz, National Elementary Principal of the Year, National Association of Elementary School Principals is Principal of Sonoma Elementary for Las Cruces Public Schools. She has served 21 years in education.

— Tim Kienitz, Administrator of the Year, NM Association of Secondary School Principals is the Principal of Farmington High. His experiences include teaching on the Navajo Reservation and was also a Principal of Shiprock Career Prep High.

— Karen Garcia Brown, Administrator of the Year, NM Association of Bilingual Educators has been Director of Farmington Municipal Schools’ Multicultural Services since 2015. She’s credited for positive changes to the K-12 English Language development program and the Dual-Language Spanish and Diné programs.
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Stan’s Straight Talk (cont. from p. 3)

students who meet the criteria and includes the social/emotional support of all students so that obstacles to learning are removed. (PED Priorities Aligned)

Moving forward together, we are certain to keep our focus on our New Mexico students and assure their long-term success.

—Best Regards, Stan

Let Us Introduce …

One of the benefits of being an NMCEL member is strengthening our connections to one another. It’s such a big state and sometimes we don’t always get to know one another except via email.

Beginning this school year, the Advocate will be introducing new superintendents throughout the Land of Enchantment — new to the profession, to their position or to their district.

• Dr. Gerry Washburn is the new Superintendent for Carlsbad Municipal Schools. He most recently served as the Superintendent of Schools for Roseburg Public Schools (Roseburg, Oregon). Dr. Washburn brings 26 years of educational experience from a variety of roles including Assistant Supt., Director of Human Resources and Principal for the Los Alamos Public Schools.

He grew up in rural eastern New Mexico and attended Eastern NM University. He also has a background in banking. He and his wife of 45 years have four children and seven grandchildren which fills his down time, along with fishing, hunting and reading. To wish him success: gerry.washburn@carlsbadschools.net

• Dr. Karen Trujillo is the new Interim Superintendent for Las Cruces Public Schools. Over the last 26 years, she has held various positions in public and higher education. Most recently, Dr. Trujillo was the NM Secretary of Education. From 2010-2018, she served NMSU in several roles including Interim Dean for Research. She started Educators Rising NM and the Southwest Outreach Academic Research Lab. Her extensive background also includes high school principal, math teacher, RETA Coordinator and eventually Mathematically Connected Communities (MC2).

Dr. Trujillo received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mathematics education from NMSU and received her Ph.D. in 1998.

In August 2019, the LCPS School Board appointed her as Interim Supt. through June 30, 2020. Dr. Trujillo hopes to make the position her permanent placement in her childhood hometown of Las Cruces.

To send words of congratulations: ktrujillo@lcps.net

Additional Student Award

Student Natalia Chavez (left) is a 2018 NMCEL scholarship recipient. During the NMCEL Awards dinner, Nicole Brown described Talia with passion before giving her an additional scholarship check for $1,000 from First Financial Group.
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About a decade ago, our IT Department made a decision to change our district’s email service, shifting from internal mail servers to Gmail. At the time, this decision did not particularly strike anyone as a change that would necessarily impact or even connect to student learning in any way. Because Google offers this service 100% free to public schools, it was simply a cost-savings measure, nothing more. (Or so we thought!)

Eventually, the notion changed as district staff began to explore all of the other digital tools that came with Gmail as part of Google Apps for Education (now called G Suite for Education). After some “polite resistance” staff started to leverage the sharing and collaboration features of core apps like Google Docs, Sheets, Forms, and Slides, markedly improving productivity and efficiency levels, while fostering stronger and multicampus collaborations. It wasn’t long before we began to imagine how these tools could be leveraged in the classroom. Our students, already set up with their own Google accounts, just needed to get the technology in their hands. This is the point in the story where the proverbial “cart” is about to be placed before the horse.

Getting the technology in place was not difficult because we are fortunate to have a very generous and supportive local community who historically votes in favor of funding initiatives. Nonetheless, in many cases, these Chromebook carts literally represented a major flaw in our initial implementation plan. With only a handful of exceptions, our teachers simply did not really know what to do with the technology in the classroom setting, resulting in SmartBoards, Chromebooks, and various other devices collecting dust in forgotten corners. We had failed to equip our teachers with the professional learning and support they needed to leverage these digital tools.

This realization stung. Of course we sincerely regretted missing the mark in adequately supporting our teachers, but our School Board also felt the responsibility of stewardship of the taxpayers’ funding for the technology that was being underutilized or neglected completely. Sadly, this problem was compounded by the fact that there simply was no room in our budget to address the problem with sorely needed professional development for our staff.

It was time to get creative. District administrators and a motivated School Board eventually crafted a plan to support education technology, funded partially out of the operational budget and partially out of Title II. We hired an Education Technology Specialist, Kris Armijo, who had been teaching in our district for 11 years in classrooms that modeled the type of instructional technology integration we aspire to achieve district-wide. She was a Google Certified Educator, already in the process of becoming a Google for Education Certified Trainer. Armijo dove right into the task of developing and delivering ed tech professional development programs for our teachers.

Still, we did not have a budget that would support substitutes or paying stipends for teachers to participate in PD. The good news was that there was a sizeable group taking advantage of PD opportunities and implementing their new skills and strategies. The bad news was this PD model would ultimately not be effective in reaching all of our educators.

So, Armijo, along with IT Network Administrator Paul Tietjens, presented a plan for incentivizing ed tech PD through a “gamified” platform that awards points to teachers who participate voluntarily in professional development and/or demonstrate successful technology integrations in their classrooms. Teachers then exchange these points for new technologies they would like to use. This program was officially launched in the form of an online self-paced, blended learning PD game called MESD 66. So far, about 250 district staff members are playing the game with about 80 of them very actively engaged in advancing their skills.
it comes to software, we needed to implement a process for vetting new applications for compliance with COPPA and FERPA laws. After putting a new process in place, we were able to publish our Approved Apps & Software list to implement with our staff for this school year. This was a very important step that puts us in a much better position to protect the security of our students and their data.

While the range of digital tools, hardware and software, used throughout the district at this point is fairly broad, we credit much of our gains and successes in the past few years to the valuable partnership we have forged with Google for Education. Chromebooks and the core G Suite Apps are the foundational tools facilitating most of the great work happening in our classrooms and offices district-wide, but Google’s influence on our strides forward on this journey doesn’t end there. The Google for Education Transformation Center has become an essential hub in providing a framework and valuable resources for guiding and supporting our integration plans from year to year. We have also found that the training and certification programs at the Google for Education Teacher Center provide rich opportunities for our educators to learn and explore innovative strategies and best practices for leveraging technology in ways that foster rich, student-centered, blended-learning environments. We only wish that we had discovered this treasure trove of free resources long before we had ever put the cart before the horse!

Even though the journey has been bumpy, our growth has been remarkable, earning special recognition and exciting opportunities to connect with other educators. In 2017, the Moriarty-Edgewood School District was named a Google for Education Reference District, the first in New Mexico. This distinction recognizes districts that demonstrate excellence and leadership through the innovative use of technology to drive impact and positive learning outcomes. As a reference district, we have worked with several districts throughout the state to provide outreach and support as they begin their own journeys with Google for Education. We believe strongly that the relationships and networks we are building with other, like-minded districts will yield great things for the students of New Mexico as we all learn and grow together.

Kris Armijo also became New Mexico’s first Google for Education Certified Innovator just this past summer. As part of the Innovator Program, Armijo spent three days working with an elite group of educators from around the world at Google headquarters in London, UK. There, she dove deeply into the beginning steps of the design process she will be using during a year-long project to create and produce a tool to support teachers in making the shift to more student-centered, blended learning environments. Her work on this project will definitely benefit the staff and students of our own district, but her project will be scalable to benefit others around the state or even around the country. (If you are interested in learning more about her project, information will be available soon at www.shiftkeys.net.)

While the recognition of our work is special, the real beneficiaries of this progress, of course, are our students. We have made an important paradigm shift, moving away from teaching about technology to viewing technology as essential learning tools for accessing and enriching the curriculum in all content areas. With teachers better equipped with innovative strategies matched to good pedagogy, and Chromebooks pulled out of the carts, our students are thriving in environments where learning is more personalized and learner-centered. They are becoming more innovative communicators, collaborators, creators, and critical thinkers as we finally have the horse and the cart moving the same direction!

—Teresa Salazar, Superintendent
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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
Internat’l Society for Technology in Education
The ISTE has a good online overview on student standards in today’s technological world. Check out how educators can use these standards in the classroom; standards that empower digital-age learners. Download a free poster!

► FEATURED VIDEOS
This is the Year: Our One Chance to Inspire
Created by talent within Albuquerque Public Schools, this fantastic video was made several years ago but can still be used for the start of the school year in any district. It is centered on inspiring students and staff! A beautiful New Mexico creation – take a look.

► GOOD READS
Leading Quietly (1st Ed.) by Joseph L. Badaracco, Jr.
Badaracco gives practical guidelines for situations in which right and wrong seem like moving targets. Review: This book really shines in illustrating how best to navigate where there are a number of stakeholders, a number of varying agendas, and a number of potential outcomes. Amazon Hardcover: $13-$16.; Kindle $15.75.

Upcoming Events

NMCEL
Oct. 17: Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., NMAA Conf. Room A
Oct. 20-23: 1st Annual Supt.’s Academy, ABQ Embassy Suites

AASA
Nov. 12: National Supt. of the Year Gala, Washington, DC; by invitation only

NMAA
Sept. 11: NMAA Offices Closed
Sept. 27: NMAA Hall of Fame Nominees due
Sept. 29-30: NMAA and NMADA Fall Conference
Sept. 30: Mandatory ADs Annual Mtg.

NMASBO
Sept. 18-20: Fall Conference, Las Cruces, Hotel Encanto; Watch a promo of the conference from one of the speakers, Jessica Rector

NMSSA
Oct. 23: Exec. Council, 3-5 p.m., ABQ Embassy Suites, La Ventana
Oct. 24: Business Meeting, 8 a.m. – Noon, ABQ Embassy Suites, La Ventana

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Jo Lynn Gallegos, Business Manager jolynn@nmcel.org
Joshua Groening Office Assistant joshua@nmcel.org

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National Summit Comes to NM – Register Now!

Innovate+Educate is holding its 7th annual CLOSE IT SUMMIT on October 15-16, 2019, in Santa Fe, at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center — the first time this national summit has been held in New Mexico. If you’re interested in learning and conversations with the leading innovations in CTE and K12 as well as major themes on equity and access, you should attend!

Innovate+Educate is offering a discounted rate of $395.00 to NMCEL members, and the second registration is comped for one your classroom or team leaders. Hotel rates in Santa Fe are as low as $99.00.

CONTACT: jamai.blivin@innovate-educate.org if you have any questions or want to bring the complimentary coworker with you!

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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.