



The Alliance for the Advancement of  
Teaching and Learning

Fall 2014  
Newsletter

## The Alliance welcomes three new team members

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### Dr. Karen Trujillo, Director of K-12 Outreach

Dr. Karen Trujillo joined the Alliance team in September as the Director of K-12 Outreach. Dr. Michelle Valverde will continue as the Director of Community Outreach. Together they are a strong team and will be working to increase the services The Alliance is able to offer.

Karen has been an educator in New Mexico since 1993 and has worked as a teacher, an administrator, a professional development specialist, a grant writer, an evaluator and a program manager mostly in the areas of mathematics education and technology.

Karen started her career teaching mathematics at Las Cruces High School in 1993 and also taught at Cobre HS, Hot Springs HS, and Alma D'Arte Charter HS. She was the principal at Las Cruces Catholic School for four years where she was instrumental in acquiring portables, installing two playgrounds, expanding course offerings, and starting St. Mary's High School.

During the past 4 years, Karen has been the project manager for *Math Snacks* where she was part of a team that developed FREE animations, video games and support materials in both English and Spanish for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade math. Have your teachers and students visit:

<http://www.mathsnacks.org>

to access all *Math Snacks* resources.

Alliance Goals for 2014-2015:

1. *To develop a plan for teacher recruitment and retention in partner districts.*
2. *To work more directly with the appropriate REC's to increase the services offered by The Alliance.*
3. *To assist professors, districts and REC's with appropriate grant writing opportunities that directly affect education in New Mexico.*
4. *To increase the number of Alliance Districts from 17 to 20 members.*

Please contact Karen with any suggestions or recommendations on how to better serve your districts. She can be reached at 575-646-1555 or [ltrujill@nmsu.edu](mailto:ltrujill@nmsu.edu)



*Dr. Karen Trujillo has been working as an educator in New Mexico for over 20 years. She has one child at NMSU, one child in high school and one child in middle school. She is excited about working with legislators, faculty, administrators, teachers, students and parents to improve education in NM.*

## Maria Jaramillo, M.S. CCC-SLP



### Alliance Co-Chair

Maria worked as a speech-language pathologist in New Mexico for over fifteen years. In that time, she worked as a school based SLP in the Carlsbad and Albuquerque school districts, an SLP diagnostician for the

Moriarty schools, and a private SLP diagnostician for BIE – Eastern Navajo Agency. She has been with Central Region Educational Cooperative (CREC) since 1995. She was the Program and Related Services Coordinator and Supervising SLP for the ten school district/entity members for thirteen years. She has been the Executive Director of the CREC since 2011. She currently serves as the Chair of the Related Service Advisory Council and Coalition of State Supported Educational Programs, Co-Chair of the Alliance and Member of NM Coalition of Educational Leaders, Excellence in Learning and Deans and Directors of Education. Her affiliation with NM PED is as a member of the RtI and NM TEACH Advisory Councils. She currently serves as the President of the NM Regional Education Cooperatives Association (RECA).

Maria's work with the NM Regional Education Cooperatives is vital. There are nine educational cooperatives whose main purpose is to provide support for programs and services that otherwise be cost prohibitive to their member districts.

As the Co-Chair of the Alliance, Maria hopes to help bridge and build collaboration with the educational initiatives and goals we have within NM.

## Dr. Robert Wood, Associate Dean of Research

### Alliance Co-Chair

Dr. Bob Wood was born and raised in upstate New York. He attended the State University of New York at Cortland where he received his Bachelor's degree as a double major in Physical Education and Biology. From there he completed his Graduate Education at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, having received his PhD in Kinesiology in 1996.



Bob has served as a faculty member in Higher Education since 1997. He was promoted to associate professor and received tenure at LSU in the department of Kinesiology in 2003. He was a faculty member in the department of Physical Therapy at Husson University in Bangor, ME from 2006-2009, and joined the faculty at NMSU as Professor and Academic Head of the department of HPDR in July of 2009.

In July of 2014, Dr. Wood was promoted to serve as the Interim Associate Dean for Research and Outreach for the College of Education. His focus in this new role is to close the outreach-research loop as he encourages faculty members to coordinate their outreach and research in order to facilitate more scholarship in the College of Education.

Dr. Wood's research interests relate primarily to aging, physical function, and disability. In addition, he has a particular interest in the aging of the autonomic nervous system and its relationship to functional decline in late life.

As the Co-Chair of the Alliance, Dr. Wood works closely with Michelle and Karen to coordinate the research and outreach efforts of the Alliance.

# Cooperative Education Services Parent Engagement Conference in January

CES Website <http://www.ces.org/>

Jim Barentine: [jim@ces.org](mailto:jim@ces.org)

## SAVE THE DATE!

*Getting Families into Our Corner*

Creating Positive Family Engagement in Schools



**January 28, 2015**  
**Las Cruces, New Mexico**

Hosted by CES and Sponsored by Edgenuity, Inc.



Presenters Include:  
Dr. Joni Samples  
Dr. Michelle Valverde  
Dr. Judith Flores Carmona  
Dr. Michelle Salazar Perez  
Dr. Juan Freire

## Borderland Center for Educational Studies (BoCES)

Dr. Michelle Valverde and the staff of BoCES are working with 20 NMSU students in EDUC 315: Multicultural Education and 240 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at two Las Cruces Middle Schools to CLOSE THE OPPORTUNITY GAP. The NMSU students visit the middle schools three times and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students visit NMSU once. The goal of the project is to encourage the middle school students to begin thinking about college and career options as they plan to enroll in high school. The project also allows the college students to be role models. If you are interested in exploring this project for your school district, please contact Michelle or Karen to discuss a plan.

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# NMSU STEM OUTREACH CENTER

## Math and Science Nights

Director: Dr. Susan Brown [susanbro@nmsu.edu](mailto:susanbro@nmsu.edu)

Check out other services for STEM Outreach at <http://stem.education.nmsu.edu/>

The STEM Outreach Center hosted a family science and math night at Chaparral Elementary in September of 2014, thanks to the generous contribution from the NASA Johnson Space Center. The event was well attended with 250 students and their families and many staff members and administrators. The school provided additional table activities, which were NASA science and math related for students and families.

Four stations highlighting various STEM fields were set up to engage attendees in hands-on activities. Additionally, the center brought a Discovery Dome Planetarium and ran continuous showings of a film highlighting many of Earth's natural wonders as well as an early childhood film featuring Sesame Street characters on a journey to the moon. NASA activities that are related to investigating the moon engaged the students after the Planetarium film.



**Snap Circuits Station:** Attendees of all ages enjoyed experimenting with Snap Circuits, creating their own patterns and projects, including: sound-activated switches, musical doorbells, voice-controlled lamps, flying saucers, and light police sirens. Participants explored components like electric switches, integrated circuits, digital circuits, fuses, and the transformation of circuit sounds into other sounds.

**MaKey MaKey Station:** Here participants learned they could play the piano with gummy worms and bananas or PacMan with Play Doh. After a brief introduction to circuitry and electrical conductivity, students were encouraged to experiment with creating their own keyboard out of unexpected materials



**Color Spinner Station:** Creating color spinners helped students to visual the basics of color theory by creating the optical illusion of the mixing of primary colors. When participants spun their completed discs, they were excited to see purples, greens, and oranges being made from the optical mixing of red, yellow, and blue. This center was related to NASA's determination of planets and stars composition due to color illumination.

**3Doodler Station:** This brand new technology allowed families to create three dimensional works of art by "drawing in the air." The 3Doodler pen melts and emits the same type of plastic used in 3D printers and opens the door to a brand new way to think about drawing. Attendees created unique patterns and sculptures, modeling catapults, geometric shapes, and space vehicles. They were intently interested in making a space vehicle to go to the International Space Station.



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## **ENLACE Fall Conference**

November 13, 2014 LCPS Conference Room

The ENLACE Art & Culture Conference engages ENLACE high school and middle students to create a dialogue using art as a vehicle for raising consciousness of a variety of issues impacting youth. Various art forms such as music, poetry, dance, and digital arts, for example, are utilized to draw attention to problems and issues as well as cultural identity and cultural pride.

This conference gathers ENLACE youth from across Southern New Mexico to create a space where they can engage in meaningful youth led learning experiences and exchange of ideas from the diversity of information, knowledge, and artistic talents that are represented. Join us if you can.

The Fall conference is followed by the ENLACE Youth Action Research conference at the end of the Spring semester. At the Spring conference students present their Youth Action Research projects related to topics and issues but employing more rigorous scientific methodologies for investigation. More information for the spring conference will be provided at a later date.

*ENLACE is a national movement for educational equity for all students in this country. For more information on ENLACE at NMSU, please contact Federico (Freddie) Marquez at [sammy824@nmsu.edu](mailto:sammy824@nmsu.edu).*

## **NMSU College of Education recognized nationally for best practices**

Dr. Blanca Araujo, Teresa Valenzuela, Dr. Rudolfo Chavez Chavez, Dr. Herman Garcia, Dr. Jim O'Donnell and Dr. Karen Trujillo received a \$50,000 grant from the Center for Minority Serving Institutions (<http://www2.gse.upenn.edu/cmsi/>) to expand the onsite methods courses for pre-service teachers. The funds will be used to support in-service teachers and NMSU faculty as they help pre-service teachers prepare for the classroom.

The NMSU College of Education was one of four universities to receive this award and will work with the other three recipients to highlight and share best practices nationally. The grant activities will start in January 2015 and finish in December 2016.

### **Visit The Alliance website for updates**

**<http://alliance.education.nmsu.edu/>**

### **Contact the Alliance Staff with comments and suggestions**

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**Director of Community Outreach**  
**[mverde@ad.nmsu.edu](mailto:mverde@ad.nmsu.edu)**  
**575-646-1358**

**Dr. Karen Trujillo**  
**Director of K-12 Outreach**  
**[ktrujill@nmsu.edu](mailto:ktrujill@nmsu.edu)**  
**575-646-1555**

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## Contact Information for Member Districts

District	Superintendent	E-mail	Phone Number
Alamogordo Public Schools	Adrienne Salas	<a href="mailto:adrienne.salas@aps4kids.org">adrienne.salas@aps4kids.org</a>	(575) 812-6000
Animas Public Schools	Loren Cushman	<a href="mailto:lrcushman@animask12.net">lrcushman@animask12.net</a>	(575) 548-2299
Cobre Consolidated School District	Robert Mendoza	<a href="mailto:rmendoza@cobre.k12.nm.us">rmendoza@cobre.k12.nm.us</a>	(575) 537-4011
	Jose Carrillo	<a href="mailto:carrillo@cobre.k12.nm.us">carrillo@cobre.k12.nm.us</a>	
Deming Public Schools	Dan Lere	<a href="mailto:Dan.lere@demingps.org">Dan.lere@demingps.org</a>	(575) 546-8841
Dexter Consolidated Schools	Lesla Dodd	<a href="mailto:doddl@dexterdemons.org">doddl@dexterdemons.org</a>	(575) 734-5420
Gadsden independent school district	Efren Yturralde	<a href="mailto:eyturralde@gisd.k12.nm.us">eyturralde@gisd.k12.nm.us</a>	(575) 882-6203
Hagerman School District	Ricky Williams	<a href="mailto:rwilliams@bobcat.net">rwilliams@bobcat.net</a>	(575) 752-3254
Hatch Valley Public Schools	Linda Hale	<a href="mailto:lhale@hatchschools.net">lhale@hatchschools.net</a>	(575) 267-8200
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	Michael Grossman	<a href="mailto:michael.grossman@la-panthers.org">michael.grossman@la-panthers.org</a>	(575) 365-2407
Las Cruces Public Schools	Stand Rounds	<a href="mailto:srounds@lcps.k12.nm.us">srounds@lcps.k12.nm.us</a>	(575) 527-6630
	Steve Sanchez	<a href="mailto:stsanchez@lcps.k12.nm.us">stsanchez@lcps.k12.nm.us</a>	
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	Randy Piper	<a href="mailto:rpiper@lmsed.org">rpiper@lmsed.org</a>	(575) 654-3255
Loving Municipal Schools	Ann Lynn McIlroy	<a href="mailto:amcilroy@lovingschools.org">amcilroy@lovingschools.org</a>	(575) 745-2005
Pecos Independent School District	Fred Trujillo	<a href="mailto:frujillo@pecos.k12.nm.us">frujillo@pecos.k12.nm.us</a>	(505) 757-4690
Reserve Independent Schools	Bill Green	<a href="mailto:bgreen@reserve.k12.nm.us">bgreen@reserve.k12.nm.us</a>	(575) 533-6241
Silver Consolidated Schools	Lon Streib	<a href="mailto:lstreib@silver.k12.nm.us">lstreib@silver.k12.nm.us</a>	(575) 956-2000
Tatum Municipal Schools	Buddy Little	<a href="mailto:blittle@tatumschools.org">blittle@tatumschools.org</a>	(575) 398-4455
Tularosa Municipal Schools	Brenda Vigil	<a href="mailto:brenda.vigil@tularosa.k12.us">brenda.vigil@tularosa.k12.us</a>	(575) 585-8828



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