



Live, Learn and Thrive.

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The Alliance Welcomes

Jim Barentine, Director of Southern Services

Cooperative Educational Services (CES) would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Jim Barentine, who will be working as the Director for Southern Services and will be housed on the campus of New Mexico State University in Las Cruces.

Mr. Barentine comes to us with an excellent academic background, having earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in General Science from Western New Mexico University in 1986 and a Master of Arts degree in Educational Administration from Western New Mexico University in 1990.

Jim started his career as an educator in 1986, teaching Sciences at Duncan High School in Duncan, Arizona. Jim then served the students of Lordsburg High School teaching Mathematics, Sciences, Computer Sciences, Computer Programming and Applications. Jim then served the students of Shiprock through his work as the Principal of Nataani Nez Elementary School. Thereafter, Jim served the students of Lordsburg Municipal School District first for ten years as an Elementary School Principal, and then for seven years as the Superintendent of Schools.

In Jim's pre-professional career, he spent time as a traveling sales/service representative for a fire/safety equipment company, covering a large area in southern New Mexico. He also spent about the same amount of time as a sales/bidding agent for a plumbing supply wholesaler/retailer.

CES has long recognized the need to better serve its members, customers and vendors distant from the Albuquerque area. New Mexico is without doubt a big state.

Jim, will serve the areas included in CES Regions 5, 6, 7, and 8. This territory is large, extending from Animas to Logan, but CES believes that having an individual specifically assigned to these areas will enhance its services.

Jim's personal qualities combined with his diverse experiences will contribute to his success in working with our members and vendors in his duties as the Director for Southern Services. Jim can be reached by phone at 575-646-5965 or via email at jim@ces.org or. He looks forward to being of service to the members, participating entities, and vendors in southern/eastern New Mexico.

Cruzando Fronteras: Addressing Trauma and Grief Impacted by the Violence in the US-Mexico Border

Ivelisse Torres Fernández, PhD
New Mexico State University
Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology

Cruzando Fronteras (Crossing Borders), is an outreach project initiated in partnership with the Deming Public Schools and NMSU Alliance for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning in January of 2012. The impetus for the project came from an identified need within the district and the desire to better address the emotional consequences of the continuous exposure to violence in the US-Mexico border. The goal of the project is twofold, first, to address trauma and grief in elementary school settings via the implementation of a curriculum geared to promote social emotional learning and resilience. Secondly, to provide a safe space for children to share and process their stories via the use of narrative approaches and story books. After securing district support we met with Columbus Elementary school staff to present the project and to provide training on the Strong Kids and Kimochis program, which is another outreach initiative that we have had in partnership with LCPS and most recently, with the J Paul Taylor Academy.

The project was first piloted at Columbus Elementary School, where 130 students grades fourth and fifth were selected to participate in the 8-week program. Dr. Torres Fernandez facilitated the program along with four volunteer graduate students enrolled in either counseling or school psychology programs at NMSU. Because the program was designed as an outreach, preventive intervention all students in each classroom participated in the program. Some of the topics addressed as part of the program included: feelings identification and regulation, empathy, and instillation of hope. In the latter part of the program, the students engaged in the development of their storybooks, in which they represented the most salient aspects of their lives. During the group meetings the students were afforded the opportunity to learn coping strategies, rehearse/practice them, and share their stories in a very safe and supportive environment. After the completion of the program, the students received certificates of completion. No formal data was collected for this pilot project, but it is this author goal to seek IRB approval so formalized data can be collected on the effectiveness of this program in bettering emotional and academic outcomes for students. Overall, group facilitators, teachers, and students enjoyed the opportunity and it is our hope to return to Columbus Elementary in the spring 2013.

On July 25, 2012 we had the opportunity to represent the Alliance at the New Mexico Coalition of School Administrators Summer Conference. As part of the conference, our team presented an overview of the program with the purpose of spreading the word regarding our initiatives and seeking new partnerships. In October 12, we'll be presenting a workshop at the National Latino Psychological Association Biennial Conference. The purpose of the workshop is to present our project as an alternative model to provide services within school settings, particularly to those who are impacted by the violence in the border region. It is our desire to expand the outreach efforts by developing a Train-the Trainers model and provide consultation to schools that wish to implement this kind of programming. For more information about Cruzando Fronteras or the Strong Kids/Kimochi programs feel free to contact Dr. Torres Fernandez at itfernan@nmsu.edu or by calling (575) 646-4093.

The Alliance Partnerships

June 4-6, 2012

The Alliance for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning collaborated with the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) and the New Mexico Middle Level Educators association to coordinate a Common Cores Standards (CCS) Professional Development training, which allowed middle school educators from across LCPS to work closely together to begin planning for the implementation of the CCS.

June 18-21, 2012

The Alliance for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning Collaborated with Dr. Judith Franzak, NMSU Department of Curriculum and Instruction and Dr. Donald Zancanella, UNM Professor of Language Literacy and Culture, to provide the English Language Arts Common Core Standards Summer Institute. Over 65 Individuals from across New Mexico participated in this training. Additional funding from the Public Education Department has been awarded, which will allow the planning to continue for additional trainings in the upcoming year.

November 2-3, 2012

The Alliance for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, the Center for Research and Outreach, Departments of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Management and Development are collaborating to provide the Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association (RMERA) Research Conference. The event will take place at O'Donnell Hall, which is the home to the College of Education at New Mexico State University. Participants from across the nation will attend and present. A tour of Old Mesilla will be available to participants who would like to pay a small fee to enjoy an evening visit of the historic town.

Fall 2012 The Alliance for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning is working closely with the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Education Committee to coordinate a Family Literacy Day at the beginning of 2013. The goal of this event is to provide opportunities for parents and families to become involved in the important aspect of literacy development, which impacts their children's academic success. The event will be a public event and the planning and coordination will be ongoing with members of the education committee taking the lead in the planning and coordination.

Implementing Common Core State Standards for Mathematics in New Mexico School Districts

Dr. Janice Bradley, MC2 Leadership Coordinator

Between Aug. 21 – Aug. 30, Mathematically Connected Communities (MC2), facilitated the second in a series of five day professional learning sessions with 49 District Leadership Teams across New Mexico. The purpose of the District Math Leadership Team is to support implementation of Common Core State Standards for Mathematics in their district/school in coordination with the District Implementation Team.

Specific purposes for the District Team include the following:

1. Develop and communicate a shared vision and goals.
2. Develop and communicate a measurable action plan.
3. Take action to ensure effective implementation of Common Core State Standards in math (CCSS-M).
4. Use data to assess impact of implementation.
5. Integrate a variety of data and feedback to support continuous improvement and learning.

WHO IS ON THE DISTRICT MATH LEADERSHIP TEAM?

District Admin, Principals, Math Coaches, Teacher Leaders, Parents and Community Members (up to 9 people)

The 49 District Leadership Teams traveled to “hubs” for the August learning sessions. Hubs included Farmington, Lovington, Los Lunas, Gallup, Artesia, Albuquerque, Floyd, Espanola, Raton, Las Vegas City, Las Cruces, and Alamogordo.

The first District Leadership session took place during the MC2 Summer Mathematics Academy in June and July. The second session built on the learning from the first sessions. Evaluation and reflection questions assessed participant knowledge of the following outcomes:

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Identify how norms are used to create a professional learning climate
- Reflect on learning from Summer Leadership Day #1
- Develop awareness of the role and functions of the District Leadership Team and Implementation Team
- Create a shared understanding of “implementation” of CCSSM
- Identify issues that contribute to effective implementation of CCSSM

PRODUCTS

- Use the PED Readiness for Implementation Instrument to assess capacity of system for implementation of CCSSM
- Modify/create a measurable 3 STEP action plan based on scoring on Readiness for Implementation Instrument
- Create a communication pathway for sharing information to others in District

The NMSU HPC+ Initiative

Max P. Bleiweiss, Agricultural Research Scientist

The NMSU HPC+ initiative will incorporate High Performance Computers (HPC) and HPC computing into a collaborative learning environment for New Mexico High Schools that encourages exploration of our environment through atmospheric modeling and satellite remote sensing supported by collateral technology (the “+” in the title). One outcome from this initiative is the encouragement of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) involvement at a key point in the K12 program where “final” decisions are made concerning higher education and future employment. As envisioned, this initiative is centered around “Earth Science Education” and, because of that, a pathway to a very wide and diverse set of occupations is created that might not otherwise be encountered in the High School environment. For NMSU, this initiative will provide a solid link between NMSU STEM and all of the high schools in the state – that should provide a recruitment tool that will increase enrollment in NMSU STEM disciplines.

We are at a point in time where it is possible to place HPC tools on the desktop and, because of this, enable HPC capability at the High School level. High Performance Computers (or “supercomputers”) are now used by most disciplines to explore our world from the smallest elements to the far reaches of the cosmos. Because of this, a HPC can be used in a variety of ways depending on the interest of the user. Many, if not all, supercomputer applications can be run on “lower-end” HPC such as we are proposing; they just do not perform as fast or with as much detail as the true supercomputers. In our initial implementation, we would encourage use of numerical weather prediction/atmospheric models for use in forecasting weather/climate and in understanding local meteorological processes. Our reasons for focusing on this area is that this is an area in which we have expertise and familiarity; however, were other advisors with other interests to enter the program, then there is no reason that other disciplines could not be made available to a particular high school, depending on that school’s interest. This initiative will also promote the idea of a “Weather-Ready Nation” that prepares the populace “...to protect, mitigate, respond to and recover from weather-related disasters”.

And, this initiative is NOT about just placing hardware/software in the High School with little no support. It is intended that a complete package be developed to provide a detailed immersion into our environment as manifested in the weather/climate and as seen from satellite platforms down to the most capable of microscopes. It is anticipated that summer institutes for HS students and faculty will enable development of programs to enhance the HS curriculum in STEM and to provide training for both students and faculty. State-wide symposia, etc. will be established for the sharing of ideas and results and to encourage a collaborative environment. Installation of a variety of sensors will create a state-wide network unrivaled anywhere. With ~200 High Schools in the state, each one hosting climate stations and performing local investigations of the environment, a much more complete picture of environmental conditions around the state will be available not only to the schools themselves but also to the State Climatologist and State emergency personnel for more immediate and accurate action during times emergency conditions exist (i.e.; drought, floods, unusually heavy snowfall affecting range conditions, etc.)

If you are interested in participating in this initiative, please contact Max Bleiweiss at mbleiwei@taipan.nmsu.edu or 575-646-1367

Farewell to Michelle Saenz-Adames

The Alliance staff wants to wish Michelle Saenz-Adames the very best as she assumes the position of Associate Director for the Student Success Center-Hardman in the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at New Mexico State University. Michelle has been integral to the success and growth of the Alliance. Through her efforts, the Alliance has implemented a series of initiatives that have not only impacted New Mexico State University but the State of New Mexico.

We realize the Alliance will have to work diligently to adjust to Michelle's absence. A true professional is difficult to replace. We will miss her!!

Please wish Michelle the very best as she assumes her new role!

Sincerely,

Ramon Dominguez
Interim Stan Fulton Chair
Associate Professor



Collaboration • Partnership • Networking • Outreach • Research

MISSION:

The mission of the Alliance for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning is to collaboratively contribute to the success of children throughout New Mexico and to the educators who serve them.

VISION:

The vision of the Alliance is to serve as a catalyst for improved education for teachers as well as children and families, particularly for those in rural and border areas in New Mexico and to collaborate with appropriate partners to meet the diverse needs of our children.

GOALS:

- To be the principal academic entity providing comprehensive training and educational consulting services to New Mexico schools, particularly rural schools.
- To be the catalyst and inspiration for all schools to meet and exceed the expectations consistent with the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, evolving New Mexico Statutory requirements, strategic planning and the Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS).

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide teachers, administrators, parents, and children access to materials that will improve academic progress and success.
- To collaborate with the Public Education Department (PED) and Regional Educational Cooperative Centers (REC) to provide training and consulting services to schools, particularly rural schools.
- To work with identified schools to assist them in achieving alignment between the Educational Plan for Student Success, Instruction, and Student Outcomes
- To provide additional resources for identified areas (*e.g. reading, science, math, special education, and bilingual education*).
- To conduct formative and summative evaluation of collaborative initiatives implemented to address the goals of the Alliance and to statistically evaluate best practices for improving the education of children in schools.
- To disseminate information and research about best practices in meeting the challenges of schools.
- To advise and assist school districts and schools in the development of family involvement policies and procedures that facilitate and sustain family involvement that is consistent with the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, evolving New Mexico Statutory requirements, strategic planning and the Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS).

ALLIANCE MEMBERS

SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

Alamogordo Public Schools	Las Cruces Public Schools
Animas Public Schools	Lordsburg Municipal Schools
Cobre Consolidated Schools	Loving Municipal Schools
Deming Public Schools	Pecos Independent Schools
Dexter Consolidated Schools	Reserve Public Schools
Gadsden Independent Schools	Silver Consolidated Schools
Hagerman Municipal Schools	Tatum Municipal Schools
Hatch Valley Public Schools	Tularosa Municipal Schools
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	Alamogordo Public Schools

OTHER AGENCIES:

Aprendamos Intervention Team	NM Education Network Center
Cooperative Educational Services	NM Highlands Univeristy
Doña Ana Reading Foundation	NM Higher Education
EDVANCE Research:	NM Northern Network
(Regional Education Laboratory-Southwest)	Parents Reaching Out
Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce	Regional Education Cooperative #2
MVEDA	Regional Education Cooperative #8
MECA Therapies, LLC	Regional Education Cooperative #10
NM Coalition for Public Charter Schools	University of New Mexico
NM Coalition of School Administrators	Western New Mexico University

NMSU AFFILIATES:

American Indian Programs
 NMSU Carlsbad
 International & Border Programs
 University Outreach & Extension Programs
 Engaging Latino Communities in Education
 (ENLACE)

Colleges of:
 Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences
 Arts & Sciences
 Business
 Engineering
 Extended Learning
 Health & Social Services

INTERNAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Jim Barentine	Federico Marquez
Susan Brown	Harvielee Moore
Susie Bussman	Michael Morehead
Betsy Cahill	Jim O'Donnell
Kathleen Cronin	Mary Prentice
Ramon Dominguez	Deborah Rhein
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