

THE RECORDER

NM Coalition of School Administrators Newsletter

December 2009



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New Mexico Coalition
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Dr. Pedro Noguera NMCSA 2010 Summer Conference



Dr. Pedro Noguera will present the keynote at the NMCSA Summer conference in July. We are pleased to have Dr. Noguera share with us his views on educating students from diverse

backgrounds. Those of us who have had the opportunity to hear his keynotes and views appreciate his no-nonsense approach and the number of practical ideas for meeting the needs of these students. He is one of America's most important voices for healthy public education. An expert on school reform, diversity, and the achievement gap, he is currently a professor at the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University and Director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education. He is also a part-time high school teacher; the author of several groundbreaking texts, a regular guest on CNN, and a dynamic speaker who translates social theory into concise, hip language with emotional impact and intellectual rigor.

Pedro Noguera has been a professor at the graduate schools of both Harvard and the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author or editor of several books, including the seminal *City Schools and the American Dream: Reclaiming The Promise of Public Education* and *Unfinished Business: Closing the Racial Achievement Gap in Our Schools*. He has also engaged in collaborative research with large urban school districts.

Recently, he helped launch A Broader, Bolder Approach to Education, a group of public policy experts in various fields (housing, education, civil rights), and from across the political spectrum, working to break a decades-long cycle of reform efforts that promised much and have achieved far too little. The group works in areas that research shows must be addressed if we are to keep our promises to all of America's children. Specifically, "A Broader, Bolder Approach to Education" calls for:

1. Continued school improvement efforts. To close achievement gaps, we need to reduce class sizes in early grades for disadvantaged children; attract high-quality teachers in hard-to-staff schools; improve teacher and school leadership training; make college preparatory curriculum accessible to all; and pay special attention to recent immigrants.
2. Developmentally appropriate and high-quality early childhood, pre-school and kindergarten care and education. These programs must not only help low-income

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Tom's Tales



Well, here we go again; another public relations challenge facing New Mexico's school districts. This time it isn't due to the perversely twisted NCLB ratings; nor even the elusive, actual High School Cohort Graduation Rate; and not even another embezzlement uncovered; or inappropriate staff behavior episode.

Rather, the findings from a recent Legislative Finance Committee Audit of 5 NM Districts have resulted in various media reports which insinuate at worst unethical behavior or at best inefficient financial practices within our systems. And a supposed advance "leak" to the media resulted in the previous evening TV news speculation and the presence of cameras and reporters during the Committee hearing.

The LFC clearly has a legitimate statutory responsibility to verify that public money is being expended appropriately and make recommendations to improve internal controls in District financial practices. Any thorough, professional review of this nature should provide helpful, positive feedback for improvement. The responses from the affected Superintendents indicated their willingness to look at the information and do just that-improve. They responded professionally; not defensively or defiantly. And I have even heard from other Districts that have now begun their own internal reviews based on the report.

Aspects of the Report dealing with school funding language, perceived loopholes, and even consolidation of certain administrative functions in adjacent districts are also policy and statutory matters which the legislators on this committee have every right and opportunity to review.

While a few of the anecdotal expenses cited in the report were admittedly "head scratchers", I would still tend to initially assume that people behaved correctly and the examples are still deserving of the District's explanation, at least in terms of what funds with what restrictions/allowances/guidelines etc covered the expenditure.

The problem- and the media exacerbates it- is that the overwhelming majority of the cited "concerns" would

likely be easily explained and dismissed if the effort was taken upfront to investigate them further.

For example, the use of a District Purchase card system came under special scrutiny, supposedly for lack of controls in the process. However, when properly utilized, purchase cards can clearly be the next, best iteration of the old purchase order model-more readily accepted for activity trips and a streamlined pre-approved business office practice. So without even seeing the "backup" paperwork, I can say with extreme confidence that a questioned purchase card expense of \$284 at a Lottaburger was a sports team travel meal!(How else could one spend that much at Lottaburger?) And six room nights on the Superintendents' card at the Eldorado Hotel in Santa Fe was the most efficient way of paying for the school Board members lodging at required training meetings, not a lengthy junket!

It is most certainly true that Districts must do everything they can to effectively utilize and leverage every available dollar to support student focused goals and objectives, and they should accept both criticisms and recommendations to reach those goals. It is equally true, however, that reports and media coverage of such reports should not be used to undermine the public trust in the administrators of the public schools or attempt to suggest that there is widespread inefficiency and surplus monies being misspent.

That does nothing to improve and advance the system for anyone.

Tom Sullivan

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Dr. Pedro Noguera NMCSA 2010 Summer Conference

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children academically, but provide support in developing appropriate social, economic and behavioral skills.

3. Routine pediatric, dental, hearing and vision care for all infants, toddlers and schoolchildren. In particular, full-service school clinics can fill the health gaps created by the absence of primary care physicians in low-income areas, and by poor parents' inability to miss work for children's routine health services.

4. Improving the quality of students' out-of-school time. Low-income students learn rapidly in school, but often lose ground after school and during summers. Policymakers

should increase investments in areas such as longer school days, after-school and summer programs, and school-to-work programs with demonstrated track records.

In addition to Dr. Noguera, the conference will also feature Dr. Gerald Tirozzi the Executive Director of American association of Secondary School Principals. As we approach the conference date, we will include other information and views of both speakers.

Please make plans now to attend the summer conference.

NMCSA Board Welcomes NMPDK as an Administrative Unit

NMPDK Chapter #1608 is affiliated with Phi Delta Kappa International Professional Education Association (www.pdkintl.org). PDKI dates its beginning to 1906 as the first education related fraternity. Today there are 37000 members across the world. The NMPDK chapter with 125 members belongs to the Southwest US and is a merger of five original New Mexico PDK chapters. The work of PDK at all levels centers around the tenets of service, research and leadership. Memberships consists of principals, superintendents, teachers and higher education faculty and administration. The annual Fall Round-up allows members to renew acquaintances and initiate new members.

PDK publishes the highly regarded Kappan, the number one education policy magazine in the nation and sponsors the annual PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitude Toward the Public Schools. PDK also sponsors the Future Educators Association (FEA) providing students interested in a career in education opportunities that allow them to explore teaching. NMPDK sponsors a yearly state-wide conference of all middle and high school FEA groups.

NMCSA is also proud to announce that New Mexico's Dr. Kathy Andreson of the Synergy Group is the current President Elect for the International organization. Please join us in welcoming NMPDK as a member of the NMCSA Board.



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Early Childhood Programs: An Investment in the Economy

On November 4-5 a group of people representing state agencies, private and public business, public schools, child care providers and non-profit groups were brought together by the New Mexico Early Childhood Development Program to learn more about the importance of early childhood development and interventions and their connection to economic growth and sustainability. Several speakers representing both national and state organizations spoke about the importance of the birth to five years of a child's life. They also stressed the importance of funding quality child care and child development programs if we have any hope to close the achievement gap and increase graduation rates. Lt. Governor Diane Denish has been a strong champion of early childhood programs and services. She encouraged the conference participants to be bold in thinking about policies that will strengthen these programs. Already there are effective programs that are providing much needed services, but only a fraction of the state's children are being served. Sometimes such programs are considered "kid stuff" and not that important, however more and more studies and research are demonstrating that if a community fails to provide appropriate and excellent services for children during the birth through five year range, we are missing a golden opportunity for learning which will impact the communities economic health down the road. Intervening at the middle and high school level is too late to effect changes in academic development; and some researchers now believe that intervening at the elementary level may also be too late.

Below are programs which are already in place for New Mexico's youngest children as well as a commentary on the importance of early learning opportunities.

Children's Cabinet

www.ltgovernor.state.nm.us/childrenscabinet.php was created by Executive Order in 2003. chaired by Lt. Gov. Denish, it is responsible for interagency efforts to improve child well-being, focusing on simplifying access to programs and services.

ECAN

www.earlychildhoodnm.com Early Childhood Action Network works to develop action plans related to the

five outcome areas of the Children's Cabinet.

First Born/Home visiting Programs

Staff made up of nurses and other professionals work with parents to increase their knowledge, skills and insights into the parenting process while guiding families through the child's first three years.

Child Care Assistance Program

CYFD provides child care assistance to approximately 22,000 children throughout New Mexico. The program helps families pay for child care while parents are working or attending school.

T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps)

www.nmaeyc.or/teach provides scholarships for child care professionals who want to work on Associate, Bachelor or Graduate degrees in early childhood education.

Pre-K program

www.newmexicoprek.org for 4-year olds was launched in 2005 at the urging of Lt. Gov. Denish.

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Aspiring Superintendents' Academy

by Dr. Hugh Prather

Take a dose of optimism, three dashes of enthusiasm, and a penchant for masochism and you have the ingredients for those who have signed up for the Aspiring Superintendents' Academy sponsored jointly by the Mexico School Superintendents' Association (NMSSA) and the Wallace Foundation. The program was initiated this past summer with advertisements in July of 2009 and selection the following month. Seventeen applicants from across the state in various mid-management positions in New Mexico schools ranging from principals to deputy superintendents submitted applications and were accepted for the first cohort.

With the idea in mind that to be forewarned is to be forearmed the seventeen prospective superintendents are participating in a year-long Academy designed to equip them for the rigors and challenges of moving into the CEO position of the school district. The program is designed around the realities of the superintendent's office. Participants have four face-to-face sessions during the year with the instructional team and then meet twice monthly online to explore in depth the curricular focus for that month.

The curriculum for the Aspiring Superintendents' Academy focuses on the practical skills that a transformational leader in the superintendent's role needs to apply to successfully lead a school district. Over the course of the year participants are examining school board relationships, the practical politics required to run a school district, issues related to school finance and personnel management, and above all, the instructional leadership necessary to ensure student success.

The curriculum is delivered through a mix of face to face sessions, writing activities, and online meetings where experts from around the state share their insights and wisdom with the participants. In a recent session, Ms. Janel Ryan, Superintendent of the Farmington schools and President of the NMSSA, took the Academy Fellows through the complex process of building a district leadership team. In January several legislators will be speaking with the group about the political skills a superintendent must have to be successful. The development of a professional portfolio and the intricacies of applying for a superintendency are also covered during the course of the Academy.

The 17 fellows are Betsy Ward from Animas, Darlene Ulibarri from Pecos, Doreen Winn from Fort Sumner, Jose Carillo from Cobre, Keith Cowan from Bernalillo, Kris Baca from Lordsburg, LaVern Shan from Carlsbad, Mary Jo Archibeque from Las Vegas, Mel Morgan from Santa Fe, Norma Cavazos from Pecos, Paula Dean from Los Alamos, Ray Trejo from Deming, Richard Yzenbaard from Zuni, Ricky Williams from Loving, Robert Brown from Lovington, and Susan Wilkinson-Davis from Jemez Valley.

The program is being facilitated by Dr. Hugh Prather who has been providing support for the NMSSA and NMCSA for the past several years, Mr. Tom Sullivan, Executive Director of the NMCSA, and Dr. Gloria Rendon, Communications and Leadership Development Coordinator for the Coalition.

If the idea of a rigorous year-long program to prepare your skills for a prospective superintendency appeals to you, you may contact Dr. Prather at hugh.h.prather@gmail.com or at (505)321-1467 for additional information and to have your name placed in the queue for a Cohort 2 application.



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Early Childhood Programs: An Investment in the Economy

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Kindergarten Plus/K-three Plus

both programs extend the school year to at-risk students. And helps to narrow the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and other students.

Family, Infant and Toddler program

www.health.state.nm.us/ddsd/fit/index.html - 35 FIT providers offer early intervention to children with or at risk for, developmental delays.

Medicaid and SCHIP known as New MexiKids

www.hsd.state.nm.us/mad/newmexikids provides health care coverage to children living in poverty.

Premium Assistance for Kids (PAK)

www.insurenwemexico.state.nm.us/PAKFaqs.htm provides funding to cover one-half the cost of health insurance premiums to insure children 0-12 whose families do not meet the income criteria for Medicaid or Schip.

Although there are many programs providing services to New Mexico's youngest children, there is still much work to be done. The Partnership is urging business to seek legislation and funding to provide universal pre-k in New Mexico.



Happy Holidays!

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from our State.*

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Calendar of Events 2009 - 2010

NMABE Annual Bilingual Educators Institute

Santa Fe Community College
January 26 - 27, 2010 - flyer attached

NMASBO 2010 Winter Conference - "Regulatory Training"

Albuquerque Hilton
February 17 - 19, 2010

PED / NMASBO Spring Budget Workshop

Hotel Albuquerque
March 22 - 24, 2010

NMCSA/NMPED Annual Conference

Hotel Albuquerque
July 26 - 28, 2010

NMCSA Staff:

Tom Sullivan, Executive Director

(505) 277-6989 • nmcsa@unm.edu

Carol S. Wood, Office Administrator

(505) 277-6986 • cswood@unm.edu

Dr. Gloria Rendón, Communications and
Leadership Development Coordinator

(505) 277-6985 • gorendon@unm.edu

Bud Mulcock, NMCSA Lobbyist

(505) 260-4792 • jamesbud@aol.com

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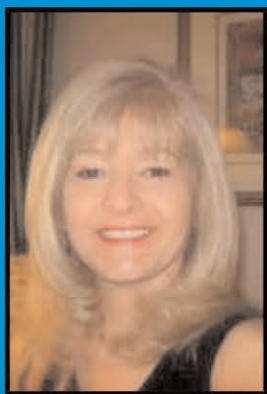


*Happy and Blessed Holidays from the NMCSA Staff,
Gloria, Tom and Carol*



NMABE
Annual Bilingual Educators' Institute
January 26-27, 2010
Santa Fe Community College

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Adrian Sandoval
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Patricia Latham and Adrian Sandoval will spend an entire day building understanding on how to use the standards and engaging participants in activities applicable to specific content areas.

The following day, seasoned teachers will demonstrate how to implement the standards when multiple levels of English language learners and English proficient students are in a given classroom setting.

REGISTRATION: \$150 www.nmabe.net

The Annual NMABE Bilingual Educators' Institute is cosponsored by the Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau, NMPED

HOTEL: Santa Fe Courtyard by Marriott -- 3347 Cerrillos Road -- Santa Fe, NM 87507

ROOM RATES (Single or Double): \$65.00 King Suite \$95.00

RESERVATION METHOD: Hotel reservations must be received at 505 473-2800 **no later than Monday, January 18, 2010.**

Please ask for the "Bilingual Education Conference" group rate to receive the discount.