

ISSUE  
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NEW MEXICO  
SCHOOL COUNSELORS'  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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*NM School Counselors'*  
**Community of Best Practice**

## CHARTER SCHOOL FINDS CAREER ADVISING SUCCESS WITH INDUSTRY BACKING

Like many charter schools, ACE Leadership often has to get creative in providing career advisement to students at its trades-forward high school in Albuquerque.

At ACE, a school for students interested in designing and building trades, career counseling is delivered by a combination of teachers, administrators, and, most importantly, members of the business and industry community who hope to someday employ these students, according to Executive Director Justin Trager.

“One of the most important objectives of our strategic plan is to enhance the connection between ACE’s curriculum and career readiness in construction and related industries,” he said. “What better way to do that than have our business partners come in, add to the lessons by embedding the skills our students are going to need to succeed in these careers.”



At ACE, Career Technical Education (CTE) is embedded in the school day, every day. Trager said the plan’s core is to:

- Build on existing relationships with employers to establish deep and ongoing partnerships.
- Expand community engagement to help broker jobs for students.
- Develop a clear industry framework and vertically align course offerings to the framework in a way that scaffolds student learning from enrollment through capstone and graduation, including the growth of their internal micro-credential initiative.

## CHARTER SCHOOL FINDS CAREER ADVISING SUCCESS WITH INDUSTRY BACKING (CONT.)

To ensure these goals are accomplished, Trager created an industry liaison position at the school. Their Community Engagement Coordinator is Matt Salas, who goes into the community to build relationships, spread the school’s mission and get industry to buy into the promise that the school can train students in skills needed to pursue a career or further education in postsecondary institutions.

***“Once they hear our message, business owners want to help us,” Salas said. “They see the benefit in having students who are interested in trades jobs AND come out of our school with measurable skills to build on.”***

Employability skills such as showing up on time, being ready to work, engaged in learning, and developing good social behaviors in the workplace are sometimes the most important messages that businesspeople deliver to the students.

Trager, in his second year as ACE Director, said that he knew getting the industry framework part of the strategic plan correct was essential to the school’s success.

“I knew if we were going to fulfill the promise, we shouldn’t rely on old standards of teaching,” he said. “It was going to take the community coming into the school to help teachers grow a curriculum

that is real-world.”

Industry and community partners are involved in classrooms in many ways, including giving input on equipment and supplies needed to make the spaces more like industry shops. Employees from the businesses come in for demonstrations or to guide student projects. For example, if the lesson is in prosthetics, Salas enlists the help of an orthopedic doctor or surgeon. The school has hosted carpenters, sheet metal workers, welders, plumbers, electricians, and experts in almost every skilled trade.

One of the newest programs of study ACE is building is set design and construction for the film industry and various live theater venues, including the Santa Fe Opera. Experts in both film and the opera have participated in building the program, said Trager.

“It’s high-level engagement,” said Salas. “People come in and the students rise to the occasion, welcoming these professionals into our classes.”

Every Thursday is “Trade Thursday” at ACE, where

businesses and industry bring their expertise to the school and talk to students about next steps, what skills they will need to get a job in their fields, and how to keep their personal lives on a straight path.

Trager knows how important counselors are to the school structure, and he praises all the work being asked of them in recent years. Three social workers are available at the school to help students with any social, emotional issues they may be experiencing.

ACE Leadership’s students walk away with at least two industry recognized credentials before they graduate. They develop skills and confidence in a trade they are interested in pursuing, said Trager.

“Most importantly, our students are getting career advice from someone who was once in their shoes, and who now is working in the trade, earning a paycheck, and giving back to students,” he said. “This framework has become a highly satisfying reciprocal relationship.”



# SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on February 23, 2022  
for the New Mexico  
School Counselors' Community  
Virtual Conference

Details and registration  
coming soon!



## COALITION FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The Coalition for Career Development (CCD) is a one-stop online shop for counselor resources. The CCD has regular webinars and workshops to support career development. Please visit [ccd-center.org](http://ccd-center.org) for more information and to view upcoming events.

A webinar entitled, “*Career Readiness Policy Forum Series, Pillar II: Providing Professional Career Advising*,” will be held Wednesday, December 8. Register by clicking [here](#).

Additionally, you can listen to regular podcasts on the site. The latest episode, “*Enabling Youth to Become Future-Ready*,” can be accessed via Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, or by clicking [here](#).



Coalition for  
Career Development  
Center

## THIS MONTH'S TECHNOLOGY TIP

### Don't know what to do with your old cell phone?

Don't throw it away! Instead, place it in your glove box or give it to your parents or children as an emergency phone.

All wireless phones, even those that are not subscribed to, or supported by, a specific carrier, can call 911. However, calls to 911 on phones without active service do not deliver the caller's location to the 911 call center, and the call center cannot call these phones back to find out the caller's location or the nature of the emergency. If disconnected, the 911 center has no way to locate or call back.

So, always start with “This is an emergency, I'm at.....” if using an old cell phone for emergencies!





## ASCA SEEKING BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPLICANTS

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is seeking board members for 2022. To be eligible for nomination to the ASCA Board of Directors, candidates must:

- Be employed full-time in school counseling in a school, school district, or state department of education or as a full-time faculty member in a school counselor education program on Jan. 31 of the year applying.
- Have served as a practicing school counselor for at least five years as of Jan. 31 of the year applying.
- Hold a valid school counselor license or certificate issued by a state department of education or equivalent state or federal agency on Jan. 31 of the year applying.
- Be a current professional member of ASCA, including holding membership for a minimum of five continuous years immediately preceding Jan. 31 of the year applying.
- Have completed the ASCA U School Counseling Leadership Specialist or the School Counseling Association Leadership Specialist no more than five years prior to Jan. 31 of the year applying. (Either Specialist training will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2024. Beginning with the Jan. 31, 2025, deadline, only the School Counseling Association Leadership Specialist will be accepted.)
- Demonstrate commitment to school counseling and ASCA.
- In addition to knowledge about, and experience in, the school counseling field, leadership candidates should be able to demonstrate commitment and service to ASCA, a working knowledge of the Policy Governance© Model, and a temperament that contributes to, and generates, group consensus, wisdom, and vision.

(Continued on page 5)

### NOVEMBER WINNER!



Congratulations to a counselor from New Mexico Connections Academy!

The counselor was the winner of a \$50 gift certificate for posting on one or more of the Community Collaboration boards on the [resource website](#).

Each Thursday, we will send out an email with a new Community Collaboration activity.

**Participate to be entered in the drawing!**

(Entries for the monthly drawing are limited to one per counselor per week. Only NM school counselors are eligible to win.)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**\*\*\*NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE A MONTHLY MEETING IN DECEMBER.**

#### JANUARY 18, 2022

- 9:00 a.m. – Eric Sheninger PLC – See page 6 of this newsletter for additional details. [Learn More and Register](#)

#### JANUARY 19, 2022

- 3:00 p.m. – Counselor Community Monthly Meeting - [Learn More](#)

#### JANUARY 25, 2022

- 9:00 a.m. – Keeth Matheny PLC – See page 6 of this newsletter for additional details. [Learn More and Register](#)

## ASCA SEEKING BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPLICANTS (CONT.)

### Responsibilities:

Board service requires the following travel:

- Typically, two-three in-person board meetings, usually over weekends
- ASCA Annual Conference (typically in mid-July)
- Leadership Development Institute (immediately preceding the ASCA Annual Conference)
- Delegate Assembly (immediately preceding the ASCA Annual Conference)
- Representation at other state school counselor association annual conferences (number of conferences, dates and locations are determined annually)
- Midyear Leadership Development Institute
- Recommended attendance at home state school counselor association annual conference
- Additional face-to-face or virtual meetings that may be called throughout the year.
- Additional travel, such as representation at other conferences or meetings, that may also be required throughout the year.

### Campaign Process:

- Candidates shall not enlist current or past state or national ASCA leaders to solicit votes on their behalf.
- Candidates shall refrain from using ASCA resources to solicit votes, including ASCA-sponsored speaking opportunities and posting messages of any kind on ASCA social media, including the website, social network, listservs, and other media, from the time the slate is

announced until the end of the balloting period.

- Candidates who are found to be in violation of these campaign policies may be disqualified from the election.
- Current and past ASCA board members are not permitted to endorse or to solicit votes for individual candidates.
- State school counselor associations may promote the elections as a whole, but may not use association resources to endorse, promote, or solicit votes for individual candidates. No appearance shall be given that ASCA or a state school counselor association is endorsing a candidate.
- ASCA may introduce candidates at the ASCA Annual Conference.
- ASCA may host a reception for candidates at the ASCA Annual Conference.
- ASCA may invite candidates to make a speech at the ASCA Annual Conference.

Review the application questions [here](#), and then complete the [online Board of Directors application](#). The application must be completed online. Hard copies will not be accepted. Applications are due January 31, 2022.

### Resources:

- [ASCA Bylaws](#)
- [Board of Directors Policy Manual](#)
- [Policy Governance Overview](#)
- [The Ten Principles of Policy Governance](#)

If you have any questions, reach out to [board@schoolcounselor.org](mailto:board@schoolcounselor.org).

## NAPE SUMMIT SAVE THE DATE AND AWARD NOMINATIONS

The National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) will have its spring [National Summit for Educational Equity](#) April 25-28. NAPE has not opened registration yet, and it has not announced whether this will be a live or virtual event.

However, nominations are open for outstanding educators and industry leaders who work tirelessly in pursuit of equity in education and the workforce.

If you know an educator or community member who exemplifies excellence in equity, please [nominate them here](#).

The 2022 award categories are:

- Diversity in Technology Leadership
- Lifetime Achievement
- Unsung Hero
- Teamwork
- Innovation Through Challenge



**FREE CAREER  
FINDER  
PREMIUM FROM  
COLLEGE  
BOARD**

College Board is taking action to ensure all students have the opportunities and resources they need during this uncertain time of Covid 19. It is offering all students and schools free access to Career Finder Premium, now through the end of July 2022.

Career Finder is already available to all students and can be accessed from their College Board account or at [roadtripnation.com/careerfinder](http://roadtripnation.com/careerfinder). Premium access will remain available through the end of July. After that, students will continue to have access to the free version of Career Finder. If you already have a Career Finder Premium account, access will automatically be extended for an additional three months.

**ERIC SHENINGER AND KEETH MATHENY  
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

We are excited to announce the scheduling of two nationally renowned speakers for upcoming PLC sessions.

**Tuesday, January 18  
and Monday,  
February 14 from  
9:00-10:00 a.m.**



Renowned educator [Eric Shenger](#), Associate Partner of the International Center for Leadership in Education and author of *Disruptive Thinking*, shares strategies for addressing the needs of learners in today's uncertain world. This is critically important as educators and counselors are working feverishly to ascertain the impact of COVID on learners while simultaneously meeting their academic and non-academic needs. [Learn More and Register](#)

**Tuesday, January 25  
and Tuesday,  
February 1 from  
at 9:00-10:30 a.m.**



[R. Keeth Matheny](#), The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning's 2021 recipient of the Mary Utne O'Brien Award for Excellence in Expanding the Evidence-Based Practice of Social and Emotional Learning, returns to provide additional strategies to help you further support the integration of Social Emotional Learning so the needs of the whole child are met and students thrive. [Learn More and Register](#)

**CONTACT US**

**NMPED COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BUREAU**  
CLICK [HERE](#) TO VISIT WEBSITE

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[NM SCHOOL COUNSELORS COMMUNITY RESOURCE SITE](#)