



Welcome to Alan Brauer!

We're all excited to welcome Alan Brauer, who is stepping in to help the Charter School Division during the search for a division director. Alan comes to us from the NACA Inspired School Network where he has been the NISN Fellowship Director and Education Team Leader since 2015. Alan earned a Master of Arts in Teaching, in Elementary Education from Western New Mexico University, an MBA in Educational Leadership from UNM and began his career as a teacher at Smith Lake Elementary in New Mexico. Now he brings his educational and leadership background to the Charter School Division and we all look forward to working with him!

Identity, Equity, and Transformation

Another addition you have surely heard about is our Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity, and Transformation, Kara Bobroff! Our newly confirmed Secretary of Education, Karen Trujillo, has brought with her an impressive cadre of Deputy Secretaries. All home grown with a wide variety of expertise, as well as being passionate child advocates. As you can tell from Kara's title, Identity, Equity and Transformation are key elements as we move forward here at the PED.

For those of you who don't already know Kara, she began her career as a Special Education teacher in Albuquerque. Since then she has worked in a variety of leadership positions in a variety of schools. Most recently, Kara founded the Native American Community Academy and NACA Inspired School's Network. We are excited to have Kara Bobroff and the rest of the leadership team supporting us all in the work that we do together.

The Priority Schools Bureau is pleased to announce the release of applications for Cohort 7 of the Principals Pursuing Excellence (PPE) program for the 2019-2020 School Year.

Applications for Cohort 7 School Leaders, Performance Coaches, Lead Coaches, and District Thought Partners are available on the Priority Schools Bureau's [PPE webpage](#).

- **By midnight on Friday, March 15, 2019: Scan and submit complete application by email to ppe.ped@state.nm.us**
- **Only complete applications will be reviewed.**

For further information, please contact PPE Program Manager and School Improvement Specialist Regina Timms by email at regina.timms@state.nm.us or by phone at (505) 827-3835.



Upcoming Trainings:

March 11th: Renewal Year Training #2 Make-up session Santa Fe Community College.

March 16th: Governing Board member training in Las Cruces.

March 25th: New Applicant School Training #3 in Albuquerque.

March 27-29: Spring Budget Workshop

March 30th: Governing Board Member Training in Gallup



KUDOS!

Introductory Governing Board Member Trainings

Any new members to your school governing board/council have the opportunity to jump start their board service by completing the PED's Two-Hour Interim Course online. They can apply to the waiver [here](#). Then scroll down until you see:

New Member Introductory Training Waiver Requests

- [Waiver Request Form](#)

If you were't able to sign up for the New Mexico Youth Summit on Opioid Awareness, please know that you can still live stream the event from KOAT – TV's facebook page or website!

This month I've decided to give a kudos to all of you Charter School Leaders, the PEC Commissioners and my co-workers here in the Charter Schools Division. There is a lot of uncertainty for Charter Schools in the waning days of the Legislative Session and, from my perspective, we're all handling it with grit and integrity.

All of the school leaders and potential school leaders in Renewal, New Applicant and Implementation Year trainings are supporting one another in a real spirit of fellowship that is lovely to be a part of.

Chairwoman Gipson and Commissioner Armbruster were working hard to set the record straight about what Charter Schools really provide during the Senate committee hearing on the proposed moratorium. I know that many of you have spent your time trying to educate our elected officials too.

We are a community of child advocates and I am proud to be a part of it. Thank you all for your hard work. – Melissa Brown

I am seeking feedback regarding alternative options for trainings. I am working on an online option for the Introductory Training for new members which will have some form of in-person component. I would like to see if there is any interest in our providing continuing member training as a once weekly, hour long, lunchtime, Zoom-type option. Any thoughts would be appreciated. Please let me know at

Melissa.brown@state.nm.us

We're sad to say farewell to Laurel Pierce! She has been a stewart member of the CSD Team and will be missed. I know you all join us in wishing her well in her future endeavors!



FERPA FAQ GUIDANCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Lisa Hecker, the Safe Schools Coordinator at the NMPED, would like to bring to your attention a new publication that may be of interest:

[**School Resource Officers, School Law Enforcement Units and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\).**](#)

This document is follow-on to the Federal Commission on School Safety's [Final Report](#) and consolidates guidance and technical assistance into a single resource to help increase schools' and districts' awareness of these provisions, which affect every school.

The Federal Commission's Final Report observed that "substantial misunderstanding remains at the local level among officials and educators concerning the FERPA, and, in particular, its application to school-based threats." In response, the U. S. Department of Education recently issued this publication, which is a comprehensive set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on schools' and school districts' responsibilities under FERPA. Understanding the provisions of FERPA relative to circumstances that threaten the health or safety of individuals will empower school officials to act more quickly and decisively when challenges arise. One of several important points in this document explains the "health and safety emergency" exception to FERPA, which is something you may wish to review.

The FERPA FAQ publication, as well as additional resources on best practices for school safety, security and local training opportunities can also be found on the PED's [Safe Schools Tab](#).