

New Mexico Charter School News



LAS CRUCES DOWNTOWN PLAZA HOSTS 1ST ANNUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS FAIR



The Charter Schools Fair held on January 24, 2022, was a lively community engagement event featuring Mariachi performance by La Academia Dolores Huerta Middle School and Alma d'Arte High School that drew crowds from the weekly Farmer's Market in Las Cruces. Charter school educators set up booths to visit with families to share their mission and showcase their schools' unique learning opportunities.

Superintendent Margarita Porter from the New America School LC spoke highly of the camaraderie and strong

interdependent network Las Cruces charter schools have built and rely on for support. Lucia Carmona, Director of Operations and Community Engagement from Raices del Saber Xinachtli Community School, took center stage, from guiding the booth set-up to warmly greeting everyone who strolled through the plaza to visit the fair.

The fair was exceptionally organized, with attractive personalized flyers, brochures, pens, and fun giveaways for the community. This unique event was invigorating and widely praised by local media and community leaders in attendance including Patricia Gipson, Public Education Commissioner; Christy Takacs, ACES Executive Director; Angela Lopez, Public Charter Schools of New Mexico; Adam Garcia Amador from ALAS, as well as charter school founders and co-founders.

Lucia Carmona was most excited about the charter school unity this event represented, and expressed their shared desire to enrich and contribute to student leadership and success in Las Cruces. Charter schools offer a student-centered learning approach and creative learning pathways that motivate students to aim high and succeed academically and as individuals. Her hope is that students achieve to their highest potential and become the best version of themselves by serving as global leaders and contributors.

She expressed gratitude toward community partners who made this fair a success, including La Piñon, CYFD of Dona Ana, Children's Reading Alliance, Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico and Families and Youth Inc., and Public Charter Schools of New Mexico.

Governing Board Trainings

The Charter Schools Division is offering the following dates and times for annual mandatory board training this month:

REMINDER: There are only five months left in the fiscal year to complete all board trainings.

- **Wed. Feb. 2,** 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Fiscal #1
- **Tues. Feb. 8,** 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Fiscal #2
- **Thurs. Feb. 10,** 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Fiscal#3
- **Wed. Feb. 16,** 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Ethics & Responsibilities
- **Sat. Feb. 19,** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Academic Understanding
- **Tues. Feb. 22,** 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Open Governance, Legal & Organizational Performance Requirements
- **Thurs. Feb. 24,** 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Equity & Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Practices

To register, please email:

Charter.Schools@state.nm.us

As always, the full list of trainings for the year can be found on the [Governing Board Training Schedule](#) on the CSD website.

If times are not working for you, reach out to [Missy Brown](#) or [Dylan Wilson](#). We are happy to consider additional times.

IMPORTANT LINKS

Open Books

Find district and school financial information on the Open Books web page. Compare revenue and expenditures of up to four entities at once. Local charter school numbers are available in the school list at the bottom of the dashboard or on the school dashboard page. Visit Open Books at:

<https://openbooks.ped.nm.gov/districts/>

Share News from Your School

Click on this [Google Sheet](#) to let CSD what's going on at your school so we can share it in future newsletters. We will be spotlighting different schools every month. Please include:

- School name
- What's happening this month
- Point of contact

GOVERNING BOARD SHOUTOUT



The schools with the best Governance pages on their websites are: Southwest Aeronautics, Mathematics and Science (SAMS) Academy and Christine Duncan Heritage Academy (CDHA). Both schools governance pages list contact information for their board members, Their up-to-date Annual

Open Meetings Act Resolution, agendas, meeting minutes, and a link to the Sunshine Portal. Extra kudos to CDHA for also posting their Financial Reports as well!

WELCOME NEW CSD TEAM MEMBER



Please welcome our newest team member, Maricela Rincon. Mari has been an educator for over 18 years in the capacity of teaching adults and elementary students. She

has been a professional development specialist, a bilingual director, and for the past eight years, an elementary school principal. Mari holds a master's degree in teaching reading, mathematics, curriculum & instruction and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in bilingual education.

CSD SITE VISITS TO SCHOOLS

CSD will begin scheduling site visits in mid-February. Visits will be conducted in person if possible, and virtually only when in-person visits are not possible. The CSD will provide schools with the 2022 Annual Monitoring Protocol on February 11, after which the CSD team will begin contacting school leaders to schedule visits.

CHARTER VOICE MEETINGS

Charter Voice, the meeting of all state and district charter school leaders, will resume this month. School leaders should have received an invitation for Thursday, February 3 at 3:00 p.m.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR AUDIT RESULTS WORKSHOP

Understanding Your Audit Results takes place on February 2 at 4:00 p.m., February 8 at 12:00 p.m., and February 10 at 12:00 p.m. This 3-part workshop will show school leaders, business managers, and board members how to avoid the most common audit findings that charter schools receive. Please register for the first Audit workshop at: <https://swrecnm-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMI-f-yopjssE9KZV39ovWDV1pfk3CxdBHe4>