



NMAG

New Mexico
Association for the
Gifted

Spring 17



2017 Legislative Update

Bills and Memorials Sponsored by Rep. Christine Trujillo

Two pieces of legislation that will benefit gifted students are making their way through the process. Christine Trujillo in the House of Representatives sponsors both. One is House Memorial 15 that specifically addresses acceleration. It passed the House Education Committee on February 10th and headed to the floor. Dr. PJ Sedillo (President) and Geoffrey Moon (A Past President) gave expert testimony during the hearing. The bill passed in the House by a 48-0 ballot.

The second is House Bill 354 and was heard on February 21st by the House Local Government, Elections, Land Grants and Cultural Affairs Committee. Our President-Elect, J Ortiz, was on hand to provide testimony in that hearing. The report was later sent on to the House with a “Do Pass” recommendation with some amendments.

Any information on this and other legislation can be found at nmlegis.gov.



President PJ Sedillo and President Elect J. Ortiz at the State Capitol helping to push for the passing of House Memorial 15 and House Bill 354.



Donate

Support our efforts to advocate for gifted children in New Mexico!

Vision

NMAG strives to be New Mexico's foremost gifted organization.

Mission

For all gifted students to have their unique needs met through advocacy, communication, collaboration and education.

New Mexico Association for the Gifted is an independent 501 (c) (3) public charity and is not associated with New Mexico Public Education Department

How can you work with NMAG?

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JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Now you can use your existing Google or Facebook account to **log in** and comment on NMAG posts. Select one of the social icons at the log in page. It will redirect to your favorite social media log in page. Then log in using your existing account and click "Create new account" to link it to your new nmgifted.org account.

Please note that opinions expressed in these articles are the author's own and do not reflect the view of the New Mexico Association for the Gifted unless otherwise stated.

To begin or continue your support, please see the membership section of the NMAG website at <http://www.nmgifted.org/membership>

Become a Member:

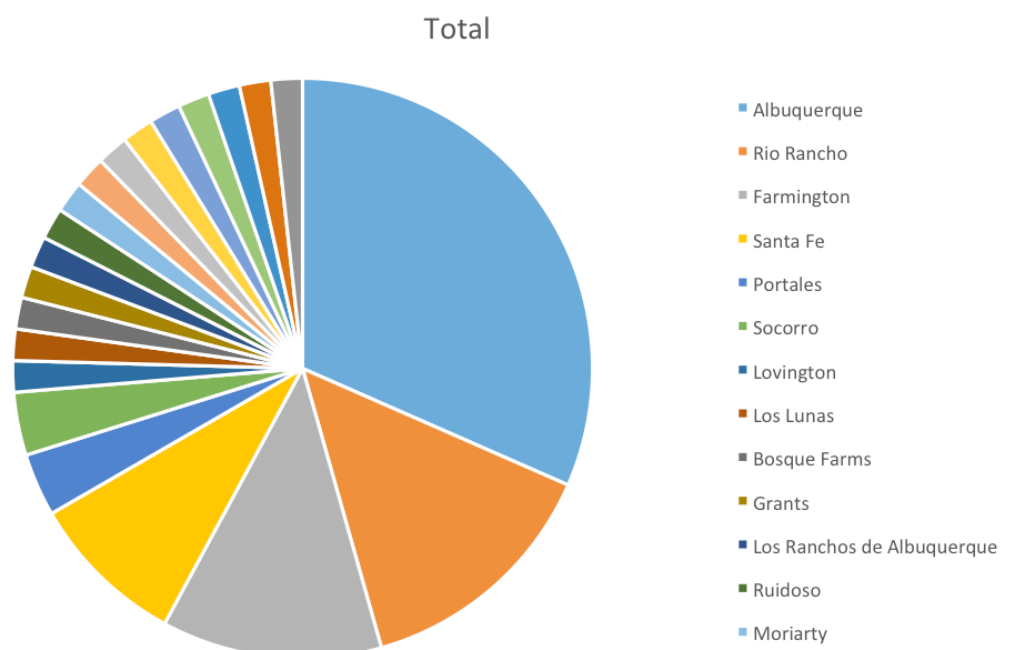
The New Mexico Association for the Gifted strives to support the gifted student population of our state, but your help is needed. Maintaining an active membership in the New Mexico Association for the Gifted enables efforts to ensure that our gifted students have advocates and access to the educational progress they deserve.

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Count of City	Count of City
Albuquerque	18
Rio Rancho	8
Farmington	7
Santa Fe	5
Portales	2
Socorro	2
Lovington	1
Los Lunas	1
Bosque Farms	1
Grants	1
Los Ranchos de Albuquerque	1
Ruidoso	1
Moriarty	1
Espanola	1
Gallup	1
Estancia	1
Edgewood	1
Laguna	1
Taos	1
Las Cruces	1
Los Alamos	1
(blank)	
Grand Total	57

Our new Membership Chair, Cory Messenger, has compiled our membership information in order to get a better idea of our membership presence throughout the state
See below to see how your city is represented.

Please help us spread the word about membership in your district!



Exciting opportunity for Gifted kids:

Recently our past-president, Christy Jewell-Roth, was approached about a new television show about highly intelligent children in the United States. The casting director, Tony Schmertzler, asked Christy to help spread the word about this new game show. According to Schmertzler “The kids will solve logic, math, and critical thinking puzzles while they compete to win an amazing grand prize.”

**NOW CASTING
THE NATION'S SMARTEST KIDS
FOR A BRAND NEW COMPETITION SHOW!!!**



Genius Jr

- * Does your child have a genius level IQ?**
- * Do they have photographic memory?**
- * Is their spelling supercalifragilisticexpialidocious?**

**Seeking extremely bright kids between the ages
of 8 -13 to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!**

www.geniusjrcasting.com

*ONLY PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS CAN APPLY ONLINE. APPLICATIONS FROM KIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPPA COMPLIANCE. ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. ALL POTENTIAL CONTESTANTS MUST MEET ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. PRODUCERS DECISIONS ARE FINAL.



NMAG Board 2017

This past January, our new board began work on the vision and mission of NMAG. We welcomed some new faces while older faces took on new roles.

President: Dr. Paul James (PJ) Sedillo

Dr. Paul James (PJ) Sedillo was recently published in *Gifted Child Today* with his article entitled *Gay Gifted Adolescent Suicide and Suicidal Ideation Literature: Research Barriers and Limitations* and another article in *Teaching for High Potential* about best practices for Gifted GLBTQ students. He also has a book entitled *40 years of Solidarity*, currently being published with ABQ Press. The book is a historical account of the GLBTQ Albuquerque Pride movement from 1976 to 2016.

He is currently President for the NM Association for the Gifted where he assisted with the fantastic board of directors in producing the organization's annual conference held October of 2016 at the NMHU Rio Rancho Center. He is also the Chair for the GLBTQ Network for the National Association of the Gifted (NAGC) and on the Diversity Special Interest Group designing a Diversity Toolbox. He attended the NAGC conference in Florida in November of 2016 and presented on Gay Gifted Suicide and Resiliency and was on a panel to discuss issues pertaining to Gifted GLBTQ students. Dr. PJ Sedillo was also asked to be the keynote for the University of New Mexico's GLBTQ Graduation Ceremony for May of 2016. Dr. Sedillo has also introduced Safe Zones at all NMHU locations by providing trainings. He recently had a training session for ARMAS, January 2017.



Past President: Christy Jewell-Roth

This is my 25th year teaching in public schools in New Mexico! I spent 16 years in the general education setting with 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. I made the transition to teaching gifted in 2008 and I have never looked back. I am currently the head gifted teacher at North Star Elementary in APS and I provide services for our K-2nd grade students. My favorite activity outside of school is dancing; specifically tap, line dancing and most recently ballroom.



President Elect- Jay Ortiz

Jay Ortiz is the gifted education coordinator and teacher for the Espanola public school district. She loves helping students construct meaning about the world and enjoys giving them riddles to solve. She recently completed her Masters degree in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in reading from New Mexico Highlands University. She also owns her own Rodin and Fields skincare business, loves hiking and hula hooping!



President elect- acts as aide to the president and shall perform the duties of president in the absence of that officer.

Secretary records and disseminate the minutes of all meetings of the association and handle the association's correspondence.

Membership Chair maintains the association's membership roster

Treasurer- maintains all funds of the association, collects dues, and keeps a full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures.

Publicist- promotes the association and its objectives.

Newsletter Editor- maintains the association's newsletter.

Membership Chair: Cory Messenger

Cory teaches in the Rio Rancho Public Schools district. He is in his 6th year teaching and facilitates the 7th & 8th grade Gifted Seminar classes at Eagle Ridge Middle School. He holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in special education with a concentration in gifted/twice-exceptional education. He was awarded the Javits-Frasier Scholarship by the National Association for Gifted Children in 2014.

**Publicity Chair: Steve Heil**

supports gifted students of Santa Fe Public Schools and, as a qualified FTAP Evaluator, helps to implement the district's school-wide screening. Previously, as an art teacher in Gallup, NM, he earned National Board Certification and received the Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching Award in 2010. As Publicity Chair on the board of NMAG, Steve manages this website and mailing list.



Treasurer: Jessica Koppel

is the current treasurer for New Mexico Association for the Gifted. She completed her undergrad studies and gifted endorsement through New Mexico Highlands University. She is currently completing her masters in Curriculum & Instruction - Gifted through NMHU as well. She teaches elementary gifted classes with Albuquerque Public Schools.

**Secretary- Anna Gibson**

I am originally from the East Coast but have loved living in New Mexico for the past 18 years. My first two degrees were in Commercial Art/Graphic Design and Ceramic sculpture. I have taught special education, gifted and general education and currently teach art at Salazar Elementary in Santa Fe. I recently completed my Masters degree in Instruction and curriculum with a TESOL emphasis.

Newsletter Chair: Jessie Carlisle

Jessica is the head of the Gifted Department at Farmington High School where she also teaches Sociology and AP Research. She also teaches Sociology and Education courses at San Juan College. She loves living in the North West where she hikes with her pups, runs the trails and never gets quite enough time to just enjoy coffee on the patio with her husband.



National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)-State Affiliates Conference

By Christy Jewell-Roth, NMAG Past President

At the beginning of March this year, Dr. PJ Sedillo (NMAG President) and I attended the annual Leadership and Advocacy (formerly State Affiliates) Conference in Washington, DC. Attendees (teachers, administrators and gifted specialists) from across the country met to talk about issues related to children identified as gifted, both in our respective states, as well as nationally.

The Trump administration, and Secretary DeVos in particular, present challenges with regard to the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) signed into law under President Obama. As is routine with each new administration, regulations contained in the law have been “stripped” and will be rewritten. It remains to be seen what the new regulations will include. States are supposed to submit an initial plan on how the law will be implemented by April 3rd, 2017.

On the last day of the conference, we were able to “walk” Capitol Hill (in the snow) and meet with staff members in each of our Representatives and Senators offices. We asked for support in two areas: increased funding for the Jacob Javits Grant to 32 million dollars and protection of Title I and Title II funding. The Javits Grant funds research and projects aimed at supporting gifted students from underrepresented populations. ESSA stated that Title I funds *may* be used to support identification of and service to students from underrepresented populations and Title II funds *must* be used for professional development for teachers in identifying and supporting those same learners. Secretary DeVos has talked about cuts to those funds.

It is important, now more than ever, that we are vigilant in keeping up with the changes in education law and in contacting our representatives to voice our opinions and concerns!

Coming Soon: Under the Big Top

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NMAG 2017
October 20-21

