



# Newsflash!

Johnathon Plucker

Keynote Speaker at NMAG annual  
Institute

Dr. Plucker will provide the Keynote on October 19, 9:30 AM at St. John's College (Santa Fe) in the Great Hall, discussing a topic necessary, near and dear to all teachers of the gifted in NM: Identifying disadvantaged youth.

Yawning income and racial gaps in academic achievement at the top end of the ability distribution can only be addressed to the extent they are understood. Identification of disadvantaged and underserved population for gifted education services can help close the gaps. Dr. Plucker will speak about causes, impacts, and potential methods to address disparity in advanced achievement.



Jonathan Plucker, Ph.D. is the Julian C. Stanley Professor of Talent Development at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Plucker has published over 200 articles, chapters and reports. His recent books include *Intelligence 101*, published with Amber Esping, and *Critical Issues and Practices in Gifted Education*, published with Carolyn Callahan. His work [defining and studying the excellence gap](#) is part of a larger effort to re-orient the thinking of policymakers and educators toward how to best promote success and high achievement for all children. He is editor for the "Research-Based Decision Making for Gifted Education and Talent Development" book series and the "Psychological Per-

# Local Talent!



From student board members  
Raquel Mendoza and Hayley Wondra

Being a gifted student, I have seen the assumptions people make about us for convenience. Teachers, parents, administrators and other students think they know how to meet our needs but often they are wrong. One of the common misconceptions about gifted students is, “Gifted Students Don’t Need Help; They’ll Do Fine On Their Own.” I can attest from experience, this is completely wrong. There is not a single human being that has not needed help with one thing or another, and students in public schools especially can agree. I have come across concepts and lessons that I couldn’t fully understand and have had to ask for help from my teachers and from my peers, time and time again. I don’t know everything and could not be as successful as I am without looking up Khan Academy videos or study sessions with my classmates. In kindergarten, senior year and every year in between I continuously utilized the assistance offered to me in classes when I need it and advocate for myself to get the most out of my education.

Another misconception is, “Gifted Students Make Everyone Else In The Class Smarter By Providing A Role Model Or A Challenge.” Some students are competitive and tend to feel annoyed or intimidated by us during class. I’ve had classmates who have avoided working together in class or act bitter towards me because of test scores or class work that was handed back. Although it does sometime provide incentive for some kids in class, it often can lead to tension between peers in the classroom.



## REMINDER

If you are a gifted student or know a student who would like to be on the NMG board, here is a link for the application:

<http://www.nmgifted.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/>