



Lighting the Way: Equity is Excellence!

On October 16-17, 2020 New Mexico Association for the Gifted will provide quality professional development for teachers, parents, administrators and counselors of the gifted.

Lori Comallie-Caplan, President of NMAG shares her excitement about the quality of the presentations and presenters. "We have nine nationally known speakers and authors presenting in this conference!"

Keynote speakers include Shelagh Gallagher, Geoffrey Moon and Joy Lawson Davis. Dr. Shelagh A. Gallagher's career in gifted education spans 30 years, with positions including teacher, Research Assistant (Duke TIP), Director of Research and Assessment (Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy), grant manager (William & Mary Center for Gifted Education), team member founding two gifted schools, and 13 years as professor, researcher, writer, and Javits grant director (UNC Charlotte).

New Mexico's own Geoffrey Moon, Geoffrey was recently honored as 2019 NAGC Gifted Coordinator Award Winner, for working with school faculty, developed a continuum of aligned program options for gifted students in Santa Fe, where he is the Gifted Education Program Support Specialist at Santa Fe Public Schools. He is the author of the NM-TAPAS (New Mexico-Talent and Potential Assessment System).

Dr. Davis is an award-winning author, scholar, professional learning trainer, researcher, and practitioner. Her area of expertise is addressing equity and access in Gifted Education programs. Dr Davis has provided training (for educators and parents) across the nation and internationally- in South Africa,

the Caribbean, Dubai & Turkey. In 2019, Dr. Davis was awarded the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) and the Dr. Alexinia Baldwin Gifted & Special Populations award from the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC).



A new feature in the Online Fall Institute will be prerecorded presentations from six well-known authors of gifted books and articles. Included in the lineup of spotlight speakers are: Ed Amend, Author of *Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnosis of Gifted Children and Adults*; Susan Daniels, Author of *Living with Intensity*; Joanne Foster, Author of *Bust Your Butts, Tips for Teens who Procrastinate*; Paula Prober, Author of *Your Rainforest Mind*; Colin Seale, Author of *Thinking Like a Lawyer*; and Nicole Tetreault, Author of *Insight into a Bright Mind* (coming March 2021).

Our Keynotes and Spotlight speakers will be joined by the talents of Anne Gray (Purdue University), Molly Isaacs McLeod (Gifted Unlimited), Michael Shaunessy (Eastern NMU), Billie Matthews (Promotes Learning), Kathy Price (Go Brainstorm), Amy McConnel Franklin (Taos), Katrina Prince (Portales), Neily Snook (Aztec), Lynn Zupans (Ed Consult.), Kathryn Probasco (President AAGTS), Mary Ann Clark (Gadsden), Chris Vian (Pres. Elect NMAG) and Kelly Thomas Coyle (Board-NMAG).

[Register now!](#)

For the program at a glance and a look at the detailed program go to our [2020 Conference Page](#).

As NMAG Members, you get all of this for only \$50.00!

Don't forget our general membership meeting will take place on Saturday October 7. You do not have to attend the conference to participate in the general meeting.



General Membership Meeting

The general membership meeting of NMAG will take place on Saturday, October 17 at 8:00 AM. The Zoom link to join the meeting is: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83457707948?pwd=RjFOOndybKRR2NYeThhZ3RHVTRDUT09>

This meeting will include the annual awards, voting on proposed bylaws and elections of recording secretary, publicity and president elect. You can find a copy of the agenda [here](#). A copy of the proposed bylaws follow the agenda.

Nominations for Awards

There is still time to [nominate](#) for gifted advocate, teacher or administrator for the year. [Nominate](#) here.

NMAG Stands in Solidarity with Black Lives Matter

George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, David McAtee, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery. These are the names of Black men and women who have been victims of America’s legacy of racism and police brutality. The New Mexico Association for the Gifted categorically denounces this legacy. We must use our positions as educators to advocate for an end to systemic racism and police brutality. We must use our positions as educators to unequivocally declare that Black Lives Matter.

As NAGC President, Jonathan Plucker stated in the organization’s condemnation of this legacy, “the field of gifted education has a checkered past regarding the promotion of equity.” These events should force us to re-evaluate the way that we view giftedness and our responsibilities to Black, Indigenous and People of Color students, teachers, parents, and communities and re-dedicate ourselves to ensuring equity for our students.

In the state of New Mexico this means ensuring equitable funding and services for gifted education in all schools regardless of zip code. It means ensuring that we use identification strategies that allow Black students to show their giftedness and not be hidden behind testing that preferences middle class, White students. It means being the voice in the room that demands that our schools, administrations, and communities acknowledge the history of racism in gifted education and provide ways forward. It means listening when Black students, parents, teachers, and communities tell us what they need. It means acknowledging the privileged positions that we speak from and amplifying the voices of the marginalized.

There is much work to be done in New Mexico and in the United States. We must listen, learn, and ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect. We must fight the inequities in our school systems and in our communities.

Black Lives Matter, Black Students Matter, Black Parents Matter, Black Educators Matter.

In solidarity, New Mexico Association for the Gifted Executive Board

Meet the Board

NMAG salutes two more Board Members.



Kelly Thomas Coyle

Kelly is a homegrown New Mexico girl from Farmington area and has been a special education teacher for almost 30 years (same age as her oldest daughter) in New Mexico and Oklahoma. She raised her kids with dogs, cats, chickens, goats and horses and was active in 4-H. She has been active in community

organizations, American Association of University Women, Lions Club, Domestic Violence awareness, and Delta Kappa Gamma in addition to NAGC and NMAG. She has also been a local and state AFT union officer. She began teaching gifted students when her family moved to Grants in 2001, and has taught in both Grants and Gallup. She describes her experience teaching gifted as both “a challenge and a delight in my life!” She hopes to remain active in advocating for gifted students in her retirement from public education as she searches for her next vocation.



Kimberly Van Gilder

Kim has been in the educational field from college all the way down to Kinder. She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Teaching from Eastern New Mexico University and a Bachelor of Arts from New Mexico State University with an emphasis in Library/Media. Kim was a librarian for 10 years in the Rio Rancho Schools until relocating to Gallup and she has been teaching

ELA, computers and Gifted for the past four years. “I enjoy interacting with my students and getting to know them on a personal level and hope that I can spark their learning and passions to help them explore life.”