



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Letter from our Principal

ECA and CEC Families,

We are a month and a half into the Spring semester of 2023 and we have had so many exciting events that have happened and many more that are going to happen! And can you believe that graduation is right around the corner? We just had our CEC Open House for new students and people interested in what we are doing here at ECA and CEC and it was incredible. We had hundreds of people wandering our hallways, visiting teachers, asking questions and getting a better understanding of what is available to their students. It was truly a magical night and we left feeling really positive about our class offerings for next year. Our hope is that all of you tell a friend about the experiences your student has had here at ECA and CEC – word of mouth is the best form of recruitment at our school.

We are coming up on a well-deserved three-day weekend for staff and students so we hope you enjoy the time off. This month's newsletter is shorter than normal but still has some great info, especially from our counselor. Please look it over and utilize the info Ms. Faulds provides to help your students focus on their path after high school. We provide great opportunities for scholarships and dual credit info so please read it.

There will be a few more changes this semester, both regarding safety on our campus. A rod iron fence is now completed and we are just waiting on some gate entrance equipment to finalize the project. Once the entry gates are finished, we will require all people who enter the gates to be wearing an ECA or CEC ID badge. Parents or guests will need to present a valid NM identification card or driver's license or a badge of some sort.

Please take a moment to look at our event calendar for the Spring. We have a lot going on and we hope that many of you will want to be a part of all the fun and excitement. Some upcoming highlights include our annual Academic Awards Night on Tuesday, February 21st at the AHS Performing Arts Center. We also have Winter Ball in March and Prom and our Talent Show in April. We were even thinking about an adult (parent) category if anyone is interested. And of course, it all culminates with a Commencement Ceremony in May!

It's our honor to serve our students, families and community as the best high school in New Mexico, and we are very excited that you will be a part of our Spring semester. Our families are an essential part of our success - we can't do it without you and we appreciate all the support you offer us. Thank You!

Your ECA/CEC Leadership Team

FINAL THOUGHTS

Our **Teacher Showcase** will continue next newsletter. We are also going to add three ECA and three CEC Students of the Month to the newsletter. These are typically teacher-nominated but if your child is doing something special out there, let me know and I will find a way to honor their efforts in our newsletter. I hope you all have a restful Presidents' day weekend!

Patrick Arguelles, Principal
 Career Enrichment Center /Early College Academy
2022 Magnet School of America
2019 National Blue Ribbon High School
 cell (505) 252-0225 office (505) 247-3658

Planetarium Update



Please look forward to joining us for a Planetarium Show for families of ECA & CEC students! Email John Glaser at glaser_j@aps.edu to learn more. Come see the wonders of the universe!

Calendar of Events

- Feb. 17 4th 6 week grading period ends
- Feb. 20 President's Day (NO SCHOOL)
- Feb. 21 ECA Academic Awards Night (5:30pm)
AHS PAC
- Feb. 24 ECA Winter Ball (7:00-10:00pm)
- March 3 ECA Fun Night (5:00-7:30pm)
- March 20-24 Spring Break (NO SCHOOL)
- March 28 ECA Yearbook purchase deadline
- April 1 ECA Senior Breakfast (9:00a)
Seniors serve Parents/Grandparents
- April 7, 10 Vernal Holiday (NO SCHOOL)
- April 14 5th 6 week grading period ends
- April 22 ECA Junior/Senior Prom (7p-10p) TBD
- April 25 ECA Senior Parent Meeting (5:30pm)
- April 25 Senior CAPSTONE Projects (6:15-7:15pm)
- April TBD Talent Show (AHS PAC)
- May 1 ECA Senior Sunset
- May 3-4-5 CEC Senior Finals
- May 9 & 10 ECA Senior Finals
- May 9-12 UNM Finals
- May 12 ECA Senior Assembly (C&G Distribution)
- May 12, 15-16 CEC Underclassmen Finals
(Fri 5/12; Mon 5/15; Tues 5/16)
- May 15 Senior Awards Banquet (6:00pm) TBD
- May 16 ECA COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Berna Facio PD Center
- May 19 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
(12:00-2:00pm)
- May 22, 23 ECA Underclassmen Finals
(Mon 5/22 2-4-5/6; Tues 5/23 1-3-5/6)
- May 24 ECA Make-ups, ECA Underclassmen Awards
Assembly & BBQ
- May 25 6th 6 weeks grading period ends;
- May 25 Last day of Classes (half day; no lunch)
- May 26 Report cards mailed home
- May 29 Memorial Day
- May 26, 30-31 Make-Up Days



What's coming up in Advisory?

It's SAT Prep Season! Ms. Alicia and Student Advisors will be helping Juniors and then Sophomores create CollegeBoard accounts and Khan Academy account to transfer their PSAT scores to Khan Academy's AWESOME Official SAT Practice Class! This will customize student's SAT practice. Advisories will be using this tool periodically to encourage students to use the SAT Practice on their own. Did you know? Research shows that there is a positive relationship between score growth between the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT and time spent on Khan Academy's Official SAT Practice. TWENTY HOURS spent practicing is associated with an average 115-point score gain on the SAT—nearly double the average gain among students who did not use the SAT Practice!

ON February 27th during advisory, CNM and UNM are coming to talk with our **SENIORS** about their next steps:

- Have you accepted your scholarship offers?
- What do you do next?
- What about housing?
- What about Orientation?

Dean Eileen and Ms. Alicia will be visiting all grade level advisories to share some self-care resources- cool stress relieving apps and more!

Student opportunities:

All Grades:

- 1) **The 2023 application for the College Board National Recognition Programs** will be available on BigFuture® beginning next Wednesday, February 15. These programs award academic honors to top-performing Latino, Black, Indigenous, and rural and small-town students.

On February 15, eligible sophomores and juniors will receive an email from BigFuture inviting them to apply.

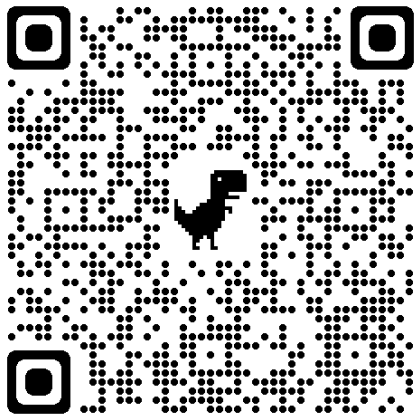
Visit bigfuture.org/NRP to apply. June 12 Deadline for all students to apply. This deadline will not be extended. Early Fall If you receive recognition after applying, you'll receive an email with instructions to access your official certificate of recognition. Counselors receive an email with a list of their school's awardees.

- 2) **APS African American Youth Empowerment Summit**, which will be held on March 4th from 9:30am - 3:30pm at the APS Berna Facio Professional Development Center. Although targeted in part towards Black/African high school students, all APS high school students are encouraged to attend. The summit is a great opportunity for students to learn about leadership and becoming a strong ally, as well as to build their cultural understanding. Plus, they will receive a certificate of participation, signed by the Superintendent. The event is **free** and light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

[Flyer Link](#)

For quick and easy registration, students should fill out this form:

<https://forms.gle/jXFwXPy6eSbsuygw9> or click on this QR code:



3) **UNM Encourages Young Women in Orthopedics and Engineering**

The University of New Mexico is proud to support the [Perry Initiative](#) and its mission to inspire young women to be leaders in the fields of orthopedic surgery and engineering—two fields in which women are sorely under-represented. On April 1, we'll be [hosting a one-day, hands-on outreach event](#) for high school students, offering young women an opportunity to perform mock orthopedic surgeries working side by side with female engineers and surgeons, attend talks from female mentors in both careers, and engage in experimental testing of repaired bones. This is UNM's tenth year hosting the Perry Initiative, which can serve as a pipeline for young women to enter our own academic programs. Interested applicants may apply using the [form on the Perry Initiative website](#)—and we'll see you here on April 1.

4) **Upcoming CNM information sessions: Mechatronics and Dental Assistant**

If you are interested in entering the field of Dentistry or Mechanics/Electronics you may want to attend one of these info sessions. Flyers are attached.

What is MECHATRONICS?

You'll combine tech, automation and machinery in the Industrial Automation Technology (Mechatronics) Program. This program prepares you to work at a variety of places like Amazon, Honeywell, Intel, Sandia National Labs, General Mills, Los Alamos National Labs and more.

[FLYER LINK](#)
[FLYER LINK](#)

5) **MIT FREE MATH SUMMER PROGRAM!!!**

$\sqrt{\text{mathroots}}$ is a 14-day math accelerator summer program for high-potential high school students from underrepresented backgrounds or underserved communities who are interested in exploring creative topics in mathematics and problem solving. This year, it will take place June 23–July 7 on the MIT campus. Sponsored by the Math department at MIT and MIT PRIMES, the program explores creative problem solving and critical thinking in mathematical topics. Participants will work with a team of MIT instructors who have diverse experiences teaching both research and competition math, and will learn by doing!

All classes, food, and housing costs are generously covered by the program's funders. Students are required to pay for their transportation to and from MIT. However, a limited number of travel scholarships are available for students with need.

Former participants have shared that $\sqrt{\text{mathroots}}$ taught them more about the wonderful, complex world that is logic and math, gave them an opportunity to explore exciting ideas and puzzles, and was a life-changing experience.

We hope you will share this opportunity with anyone you know who you think would be a good fit for $\sqrt{\text{mathroots}}$ —for example, students who show a high degree of interest in math, or those who have a favorite math book. For more information about the program and the link to the application, visit the website. The $\sqrt{\text{mathroots}}$ application is due March 1.

Feel free to reach out directly to mathroots@mit.edu with any questions.
[MIT MATHROOTS](#)

6) **UNM is hosting a Neuroscience Competition for Teens! March 18th, 9am-4pm**

This is free for students to attend, they will be provided free breakfast and lunch for both them and a guest, and will be given a tour of research labs on UNM's campus. The first place winner will also get an all expenses paid trip to Irvine, CA to compete at the national level. If you reach out to the coordinator, Nikki Maphis (nmaphis@salud.unm.edu) she said she can also provide study guides to interested students.

[FLYER LINK](#)

- 7) **The Aerospace Corporation sponsors the Future STEM Leaders Scholarship.** The \$5000 scholarship is awarded to a high school junior or senior planning to study a STEM field, who qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch, and who is preferably the first person in their family to go to college. The scholarship is open to high school Juniors and Seniors in New Mexico who meet the qualifications and submit an application. We will award at least two scholarships in 2023, and we will conduct a fund-raising campaign with the intent of raising enough to award a third scholarship.

Applications are due 21 April 2023. Note: a PDF of a transcript can be sent. It does not have to be a transcript ordered via Parchment.

The Albuquerque Regional Office of The Aerospace Corporation looks forward to working with you and your schools this year to award this scholarship to a deserving students.

<https://students.aerospace.org/>

Sam Myers Sims
The Aerospace Corporation
SSC Innovation and Prototyping Delta
505-440-1132 Cell
Sam.sims@aero.org

- 8) **UNM's Summer CURE Program:** Join the fight against cancer! Work with scientists, mentors, peers, and other students to learn about research. You can share what you learn with your community and learn skills that will help you during college and in identifying your career path. The experience may also inspire you to want to become a cancer researcher or oncologist too!
[FLYER LINK](#)
- 9) **\$3,000 LOCAL Scholarship- NM Coalition of Educational Leaders.** Preference is given to students who plan to study in the field of Education. February 24th deadline. See attachments for details.
[FLYER LINK](#)

Juniors:

- 1) I am sure that you all heard me announce 2 of our seniors who "matched" with top tier colleges and have full ride scholarships to these colleges through the Questbridge College Match program. Well, Questbridge has a program for Juniors as well. If you are an outstanding, hard working Junior whose family has a low to moderate income, then you MUST check out **Questbridge's [College Prep Scholars Program](#)** ...it's the first step to a potential full ride scholarship!

Do you want to learn more about our program for juniors? Educators and students are invited to [register for our webinar](#) on **Thursday, February 2, at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time** (6:00 p.m. Eastern Time) to learn more about the benefits, awards, and application process for the College Prep Scholars Program.

Resource for Juniors interested in applying to be a Questbridge Scholar: [2023 College Prep Scholars Program essay prompt](#) and [essay resources](#) with students who may be interested in applying. Applicants will need to write one personal essay (650-word limit), which will carry over to the National College Match.

- 2) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS...2023 UNM American Indian Junior Day program** on Wednesday, April 26 at UNM-Main Campus. See attached flyers for details. If you have an interest in attending this event, please let me know. Email alicia.faulds@aps.edu. We would need to attend as a group.

Seniors:

- 1) It's Spring Scholarship season! Most of our seniors have been accepted to multiple colleges and decided where they will be going for their college adventure. Hopefully, seniors have explored the scholarships that the college that they are attending offer and applied for them. Now it's time to focus on LOCAL scholarship opportunities and apply. Remember that LOCAL means less competition and more likelihood of winning! Make sure to check out:

The Albuquerque Community Foundation:

<https://abqcf.org/scholarships/>

APS's awesome scholarship list google

form: <https://www.aps.edu/students-parents/scholarships>

And of course keep an eye out for postings in the Google Classroom

- 2) IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM CNM:

CNM's matriculation process has been completed for this academic year. The attached list of students who have been matriculated for Fall 2023. They were sent an admissions email (to both their personal and myCNM email accounts) earlier today and will also be getting a text tomorrow to let them know about this update and to provide more information on what this means.

A few reminders:

- These students are admitted for Fall 2023, so they do not need to complete a CNM Admissions Application.
- If they want to actually start in Summer 2023, they will just need to email the Admissions office at admissions@cnm.edu to request this change.
- If a student who was matriculated is not planning on attending CNM at all after high school, no action is needed from you or the student.
- The list of seniors that this applies to is listed in the Class of 2023 Google Classroom

****Remember that Ms. Alicia post, sometimes multiple times a day, opportunities and scholarship information in the Class of 2023 and Class of 2024 Google Classrooms.***



<https://cec.aps.edu/counseling>

Thanks for reading and Happy Presidents' day!

Alicia Faulds, M.A., LMHC
ECA/CEC School Counselor
Work cell (505) 967-9525

PARENT BOOSTER CLUB info

Calling all awesome ECA/CEC families! Don't forget our fifth Booster Club meeting of the school year. We hope you'll **join us on Tuesday, March 14th** in our beautiful new building (or join us remotely using this Google Meet link). This alliance of families, teachers and community members serves an important role in our school's success, and we hope that you will join us! We have several projects on deck this year, and lots of opportunities for families to get involved; from fundraisers and classroom projects, to dances, field trips and advisory boards, there's something for everyone. Our monthly meetings happen on the second Tuesday of every month from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Please join us today and help make this a year to remember for our students!

You can find out more about our Booster Club by [visiting our webpage](#), or contacting either Assistant Principal Thomas at thomas_d@aps.edu or our PTO President, Ms. Jenny Galasso, at galassoj@yahoo.com.

SUPPLY DRIVE

Supply Drive for the Transgender Resource Center of NM

As we work toward ensuring that all students feel welcome and safe at CEC/ECA, our staff have received training from the Transgender Resource Center of NM (TRCNM). As we learned about their amazing services, we are choosing to run a **Supply Drive** for the clients of their Outreach Center here in Albuquerque, many of whom are unhoused. Many of the items on the list could be picked up on your next trip to COSTCO, and others may come from de-cluttering. Your student can bring these to the front office. THANK YOU!!!

- Bottled water
- Shelf stable snacks - chips, cookies, crackers, etc. (individually packaged)
- Shelf stable protein - beef jerky, Vienna sausage, tuna, etc.
- Cup of Noodles (or similar items)
- Ready to eat chili, pasta meals, soups (pop top lids preferred)
- Hygiene items - shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap/body wash (bulk or travel sizes), razors, lip balm
- Warm clothing (i.e., coats, jackets, sweaters, etc.) in adult sizes small- XL
- Underwear - sizes small to x-large
- Shoes - sizes 8-11
- Hand warmers
- Blankets & Sleeping bags
- Tents

STUDENT SUCCESSES

This year ECA student government participated in NM Association of Student Councils. This event encouraged student to grow their leadership and make connections with their home high schools. STUCO was also able to learn new activities and skills that they will bring back to ECA. Seventeen incredible

student leaders were able to participate and represent ECA.



This year's State STUCO conference was a success. ECA students represented our school community very well. They learned a lot while executing each task that was asked of them in a very professional and eloquent manner. Our students showed lots of class and dignity. All in all it was a great conference. We are proud of each and every one of our esteemed students.

MORE STUDENT SUCCESSSES



Our two National Merit Finalists, Francisco Alejos and Victoria Scott, posing with Ms. Faulds after receiving their certificates. These two amazing students are on a pathway to success and exemplify what any student who comes to ECA and CEC can make of themselves! We will definitely hear more about them and we are so proud of their successes!!

Click here for:
[BREAKING THE](#)
[SILENCE](#)
[INFORMATION](#)



Mr. Limary, the CEO of Talin Market at Louisiana and Central, visited our World Language and other CEC classes and spoke with our students about the importance and relevance wrapped around the foods we eat from the many cultures represented in Albuquerque. He was also smart enough to bring samples, which the kids enjoyed. We appreciate our great partnership with Mr. Limary and Talin Market!

New Mexico Solutions is need of Treatment Foster Care (TFC) Parents!

TFC Parents provide a supportive family setting for children and youth with physical, emotional, and social needs.

Who can become a TFC Parent?

- A TFC parent must be over the age of 21 years old; and without a history of criminal offenses against children.
- TFC parents can be of any race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or culture.

TFC parents receive tax-free financial reimbursement.

Individuals interested in becoming TFC Parents should contact New Mexico Solutions at 505-388-8956.



SCHOOL RECOGNITION

Early College Academy has added a new award to the recent National Blue Ribbon Award won in 2019 – ECA is now a 2023 Certified National Magnet High School.

Only 18 magnet high schools in the entire United States earned the distinction of becoming a Magnet Schools of America HS Demonstration School. They earned the distinction from [Magnet Schools of America](#), the national association of magnet and theme-based schools.

The certification process is designed to recognize the most exemplary magnet schools in the nation and help them as they continue to grow and provide high-quality, innovative curricula and instructional programs that promote choice, equity, diversity, and academic excellence for all students.

As a Nationally Certified-Demonstration Magnet School, ECA demonstrated through evidence, reflection, and strategic action that they have established the Standards of Excellence in their schools and fulfilled a commitment to community stakeholders.