

Early College Academy & Career Enrichment Center

Family News

October 1, 2025



BOOSTER CLUB MEETING • October 6th

Please join us for the **ECA-CEC Booster Club meeting Monday, October 6th at 5:30** on Google Meet:

<https://meet.google.com/gpy-wvkw-ybz>

The ECA/CEC Booster Club needs your help to support upcoming fun events for our students! Check out the [Booster Club Web Page](#) – see what we do and find out how to be a part! [Please use this link](#) to share your name and email with our Booster team so we can keep you in the loop.

CEC TURNS 50! ECA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!

Our Open House and Kickoff Celebration on September 17th was a great success. This well-attended event included a special dedication of our Hall of Fame, celebrating ECA's achievement as a multiple-time state Mock Trial champion school, and a "kickoff" to celebrate 50 years of CEC and 20 years of ECA graduates. The start of great things to come!

Did you attend ECA or CEC? Please fill out the [Alumni Contact Information Form](#) to tell us your story, and get connected with fellow alumni and your favorite teachers, receive invites to events, and keep up-to-date with all the cool things happening at ECA and CEC.

Our big celebration will be on March 19th, 2026 for the "CEC 50 ECA 20 Anniversary Block Party". Want to make a donation to help the celebration? You may donate on the CEC/ECA Anniversary Fund [Donation Schoolpay form](#), or contact Mr. Allen (francis.allen@aps.edu) or Principal Arguelles (505-252-0225) if you wish to arrange for a larger donation. Thank you!

Help spread the word! Don't forget to use #CEC50 and #ECA20 as well as @aps_eca and @aps_cec on social media to tell your stories!



COMING EVENTS:

- Oct. 6 **ECA Booster Club Meeting (5:30 PM)**
Online meeting, link at left.
- Oct. 9 **End of 1st quarter grading period**
- Oct. 10 **Fall Break (NO SCHOOL)**
- Oct. 13 **Indigenous Peoples Day (NO SCHOOL)**
- Oct. 14 **PSAT/NMSQT** for all Sophomores and many Juniors (*In-person classes for non-testing students*)
- Oct. 15 **ECA Picture Retakes**
- Oct. 15 **Ofrenda** - Students, families bring offerings.
- Oct. 19 **ECA Sophomore Day in the Park @ Altura Park (3:00-7:00 PM)**
- Oct. 23 **ASVAB testing for ECA Students (8:30-11:30 AM)**
- Oct. 29 **Fall Festival, Haunted House, and Cuentos de folklores**
- Nov. 3 **ECA Booster Club Meeting (5:30 PM)**
- Nov. 4 **Election Day (NO SCHOOL)**
- Nov. 5 **ECA Recruitment Open House (5:30-7:00 PM)**
- Nov. 11 **Veterans' Day (NO SCHOOL)**
- Nov. 13 **College Tour Field Trip to NMT & NMSU**
- Nov. 15 **Holiday Craft Fair (9:00 AM-4:00 PM)**
- Nov. 24-25 **Parent Teacher Conferences (virtual learning days for students)**
- Nov. 26-28 **Thanksgiving Break (NO SCHOOL)**
- Dec. 1 **ECA Booster Club Meeting (5:30 PM)**
- Dec. 6 **Twinkle Light Parade**
- Dec. 10-12 **CEC Finals** (CEC classes conclude for the semester Dec. 12).
- Dec. 13 **Winter Ball (7:00-10:00 PM)**
- Dec. 18-19 **ECA Finals**
- Dec. 19 **End of 2nd quarter grading period**
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2 **Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)**



← The Hall of Fame plaque commemorating ECA’s Mock Trial wins is shown by ECA alum Aileen Ukwuoma, 2023 and 2024 New Mexico Mock Trial Journalism Champion and 2024 National Mock Trial Journalism Champion.

↓ ECA/CEC families help kick off the celebration of 50 years of CEC and 20 years of ECA at the Open House on September 17th.



Career Enrichment Center 50th Anniversary sponsored by



Thank you!

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NEW GIFTED TEACHER

ECA is excited to welcome **Gina Marselle** as our new gifted teacher! Ms. Marselle will start on October 14th, and her first task will be to reach out to all of our gifted students and their families about IEP meetings. Thanks for your patience as we await Ms. Marselle's arrival!!

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST

Congratulations to ECA student **Galen Yane**, who was one of 24 Albuquerque Public Schools high school seniors named as semifinalists in the **2026 National Merit Scholarship Program**. Fewer than one percent of U.S. high school seniors qualify as semifinalists. More than 1.3 million juniors in about 20,000 high schools took the PSAT in 2024. Of those, about 16,000 were named semifinalists and are eligible to compete for nearly \$26 million in National Merit Scholarships. Congratulations, Galen, and good luck as you move on in the qualifications.

FALL FESTIVAL & HAUNTED HOUSE - October 29th, 6:00-9:00 PM



Our **Fall Festival and Haunted House on Wednesday, October 29th** will be a really fun event for ECA/CEC. There will be free trick-or-treating for young kids, as well as carnival games, a costume contest, food, movie night, and return of the legendary haunted house. The event will run from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

We need parent volunteers! If you like to dress up for Halloween, or you just want to be a part of the fun, please [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up through the Booster Club to help! We need people in-costume as part of the Haunted House itself, and adults (in-costume or not) to collect tickets and direct people. We will work with volunteers to make sure you all have time to enjoy the event with your family.

GO ESPORTS!

Game	Result	Score	Team/Logo
FORTNITE	WIN!	2-1	Mountain View High School
SUPER SMASH BROS ULTIMATE	WIN!	7-3	Team Logo
SUPER SMASH BROS ULTIMATE	LOSS	0-6	Team Logo
ROCKET LEAGUE	WIN!	3-0	Team Logo
ROCKET LEAGUE	PERFECT GAME	47-0	Team Logo
MARIOKART DELUXE	WIN!	2-0	Mountain View High School

Game	Result	Score	Team/Logo
FORTNITE	WIN!	2-0	LA Hilltoppers
SUPER SMASH BROS ULTIMATE	LOSS	3-7	LA Hilltoppers
SUPER SMASH BROS ULTIMATE	LOSS	0-6	Trojan M
SUPER SMASH BROS ULTIMATE	LOSS	2-6	Team Logo
ROCKET LEAGUE	WIN!	3-1	Golden Hill
MARIOKART DELUXE	LOSS	1-2	LC

NEEDED IN THE HEALTH OFFICE

The Health Office is seeking donations of clothing for students who need a change of clothes while at school. Occasionally we have students who need a change of clothes due to health-related events. Items such as sweatpants and loose fitting tops in various sizes are particularly helpful. Thank you in advance!



HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS:

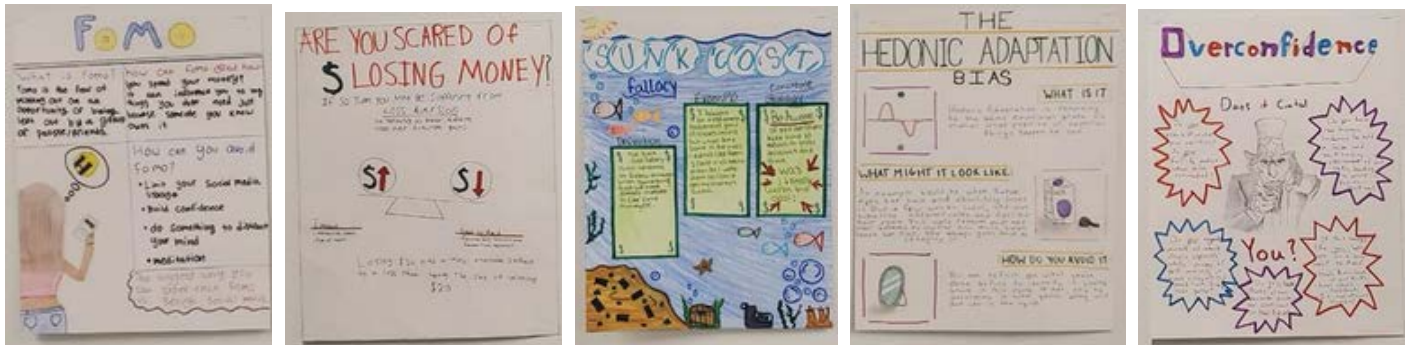
History of Rio Grande and Bosque Ecosystems

Students from **Megan Lanigan's** Vet Med class met with Rich Wagner from the **Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP)** to learn about the history of the Rio Grande before they begin their monthly fieldwork monitoring of bosque ecosystems! Stay tuned for student research and projects in May!



PSAs on Financial Behaviors

Students in **Jessica Vierra's** Personal Financial Literacy class created PSAs to warn others about the beliefs/thoughts behind irrational behaviors related to money and to offer strategies for combating the cognitive biases. This class is a new APS requirement for freshmen.



Pre-Med Pickle Autopsies!

Lorena Glaser's Pre-Med students completed their pickle autopsies last week. This lesson taught them how to use anatomical directions and regions to describe wounds or injuries.



Constitutional Cake!

Kudos to **Erika Ninneman** and **Jessica Vierra** for making the Constitution come alive for their history students. In addition to cake, there were songs and readings and more!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Juniors and Seniors:

The November 13th College tour to NMT and NMSU is on! Please check your grade level google classroom and Synergy email for details and permission forms! As a Junior or Senior parent, if you would like to chaperone, please let me know ASAP. A background check is required.

Seniors:

The FAFSA for the 2026-27 College year opens October 1st! All resources needed are in the Class of 2026 Google Classroom. Parents, even if you are sure that your family will not qualify for any federal grant money, I strongly encourage you to fill it out anyway, as it is sometimes required for independent scholarships. The form is now less than 25 questions and is said to take about 30 minutes to fill out for both the student and parent, so it couldn't hurt! Your student and at least one parent will be filling out the FAFSA for the 2026-27 College school year.

What exactly is financial aid?

Federal student financial aid is the best place to start seeking money for college or career training. Federal student aid comes from the federal government – specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It's money that helps pay for higher education expenses (i.e., college, career school, or graduate school expenses). Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the most important application for getting federal assistance and the only way to get access to federal student loans, grants and work-study programs. Submit your FAFSA application as early as possible, some aid is awarded on a first come, first served basis.

The New Mexico Assistance Foundation (NMEAF) is an organization that works with APS seniors and families for guidance on filling out the FAFSA. Please go to their website after October 1st. They make it very easy to follow the two steps needed:

- Creating an FSA ID (must be done BEFORE filling out the FAFSA)
- Filling out the FAFSA form

They also offer a \$500 Scholarship. It's a "No Brainer" scholarship that you should all apply for. It's simple. Check this out on their website after October 1st as well.

[Link to NMEAF FAFSA HELP](#)

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

CEC/ECA HOLIDAY CRAFT & GIFT FAIR

Mark your calendars and save your pennies! 😊 **The Holiday Craft & Gift Fair is back for our 3rd year!** Last year we doubled the number of booths from our first year, with more than 50 vendors and a great selection of gift items for your holiday shopping. This year we are hoping to be even bigger, with many returning vendors and some exciting new ones. Please plan to come out and shop and support local artist and crafters!

Are you an artist or crafter with work to sell? [Visit our web page](#) to get more information and find out how to sign up for a booth. We've kept our booth fees low – only \$25!

Are you an ECA or CEC student artist or crafter? Your booth could be FREE!

Please email CECcraftfair@gmail.com with questions.



COMMUNITY ENGLISH COURSE AT UNM – Oct. 27th through Dec. 5th

The CELAC Fall 2025 Community English Course at the University of New Mexico is designed for low-intermediate to intermediate English learners who wish to strengthen their skills in conversation, grammar, reading, and writing. The course will take place in person at UNM, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00–5:30 PM.

Additional information is available: <https://celac.unm.edu/celac-programs/community-course.html>

- 6 week course
- Course Dates: October 27 - December 5 (no class on Nov 27)
- Tuesdays & Thursdays
4:00pm-5:30pm
- In-person on UNM campus
- Cost: \$195 includes course material & registration (non-refundable)
- Participants receive a Certificate of Completion from UNM
- Deadline for enrollment & Payment: October 20, 2025

**Enroll
Online:**



For More Information:

CALL: 505-277-4032

Email: celac@unm.edu

- 6 semanas
- Fechas del curso: 27 de Octubre - 5 de Diciembre (No hay clase el 27 de Noviembre)
- Martes y Jueves 4:30pm-5:30pm
- Clases presenciales en UNM
- Costo: \$195 incluye material del curso e inscripción (No reembolsable)
- Los participantes reciben un Certificado de Finalización de UNM
- Fecha límite de inscripción y pago: 20 de Octubre de 2024

**Inscríbese
en línea:**



Para mayor información

Teléfono: 505-277-4032

Email: celac@unm.edu

CELAC Fall 2025 COMMUNITY ENGLISH COURSE

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