

# Early College Academy & Career Enrichment Center

## Family News

August 27, 2025



### BOOSTER CLUB MEETING • September 8th

Please join us for the ECA-CEC Booster Club meeting Monday, September 8) at 5:30 on Google Meet:

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

### Follow our accounts on social media!

#### Youtube:

Early College Academy  
> [youtube.com/@aps\\_eca](https://youtube.com/@aps_eca)  
Career Enrichment Center  
> [youtube.com/@aps\\_cec](https://youtube.com/@aps_cec)  
ECA Esports  
> [youtube.com/@eca\\_esports](https://youtube.com/@eca_esports)

#### Instagram:

Career Enrichment Center  
> [instagram.com/@aps\\_cec](https://instagram.com/@aps_cec)  
Early College Academy  
> [instagram.com/@aps\\_eca](https://instagram.com/@aps_eca)

### CEC TURNS 50! ECA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!

#### CEC 50 ECA 20 Kickoff Event, Open House, & Hall of Fame Dedication – September 17 • 5:30-7:30 PM

Join us on September 17th as we kick off a year-long celebration of two very special milestones. The Career Enrichment Center (CEC) is celebrating 50 years of providing engaging, relevant, hands-on career-focused and college-prep learning to students from all over Albuquerque. CEC has touched the lives of thousands in our community, with generations of families sending their students here to build a promising path toward their future. Our award-winning Early College Academy (ECA) celebrates our 20th graduating class this year, with a history of state- and national-level accomplishments, top ratings on NMVISTAS and USA Today platforms, and the highest graduation and SAT numbers in New Mexico.

This definitely calls for a celebration! **On Thursday, September 17th, we'll combine our annual Open House with a special dedication of our Hall of Fame and an anniversary kickoff to remember. Join us from 5:30 to 7:30 pm** to celebrate our students' accomplishments, tour the campus and meet our incredible teachers and staff, and learn about how both CEC and ECA help prepare generations of students to shape the future.

### COMING EVENTS:

- Aug. 28 **ECA Fun Night (5:00-7:00 PM)**
- Sep. 1 **Labor Day (NO SCHOOL)**
- Sep. 2 **Senior Night (6:15-7:15 PM)** Online meeting – see Counselor’s Corner for link
- Sep. 2-12 **Freshman Class Officer Student Government Elections**
- Sep. 8 **ECA Booster Club Meeting (5:30 PM)** Online meeting – see link at left
- Sep. 9 **Freshmen/Sophomore Parent Information Night (6:00-7:00 PM)** Online meeting
- Sep. 17 **CEC 50 ECA 20 Kickoff Event, Open House & Hall of Fame Dedication (5:30-7:30 PM)**
- Sep. 22-26 **Homecoming Spirit Week**
- Sep. 27 **Homecoming Dance (7:00-10:00 PM)**
- Oct. 6 **ECA Booster Club Meeting (5:30 PM)** Online meeting.
- 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 (Asynchronous learning day for students not taking PSAT)**



## PRINCIPAL'S NOTE ON CLOSED CAMPUS:

Students and families are reminded that ECA is a closed campus at lunch for 9th through 11th graders; only our 12th grade students have off-campus privileges during lunchtime. This extends to food deliveries from family, friends and delivery services (i.e., UberEats). These deliveries can present a potential security risk and violate ECA policy. Students can bring a meal from home, use our microwaves in the commons, enjoy an APS lunch, or purchase lunch items from our student-run Cafe. Please help us to keep our campus secure and respect school rules.

## SHOUT OUT: OSHA Trainings/Certifications for our students

Shout-Out to **Miskee Blatner** of CEC's Work-Based Learning program for getting over 200 OSHA certifications for our school! OSHA (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor) has the mission to assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance. OSHA offers workplace safety certifications in a variety of industries. We are offering OSHA trainings/certifications in many of our career pathway courses to ensure our students have the knowledge and skills necessary to remain safe in the workplace.

## SHOUT OUT: Vet Med Students showcase outstanding research

Shout out to Megan Lanigan and former and current students from Ms. Lanigan's Veterinary Medicine/Small Animal Science classes, who gathered at the Bachechi Open Space Education Center to showcase their outstanding projects. Last May's students presented capstone projects addressing a wide range of ecological topics, including biodiversity, invasive and keystone species, the history of the Rio Grande, symbiotic relationships, and more. They shared their work with visitors as well as this semester's VetMed students, demonstrating remarkable dedication, professionalism, and passion. The quality of these projects—tackling urgent environmental issues with depth and insight—reflects the high standards of CEC and could easily be mistaken for college-level work.



## SEEKING WORK BASED LEARNING CONNECTIONS & NETWORKING FROM YOU!

We are looking for organizations/businesses & professionals who are willing to help us with a variety of Work-Based Learning (WBL) opportunities. This can include professionals who would be willing to be a guest speaker to share about their career or business, host a job shadow student or intern, have a table at a career fair, etc.

If you might be interested and willing to support our amazing school and efforts to help students connect the dots between what they are learning and their future careers, please complete this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/P8G62Pwb8iQ4rqzN8>. Please share with any family members or friends who might be interested as well!

Currently, I am working to place 40+ WBL interns, and while many have found placements easily, several have not. If you or anyone you know might be willing to host a student intern for 5 hours per week, let me know ASAP.

- Engineering or computer science
- Any job in the "sciences"
- Interpretation services - especially in the court system, but looking at the translation of documents or working with people
- Defense attorney/law

Thanks in advance!

**Miskee Blatner**, CEC Workbased Learning Coordinator

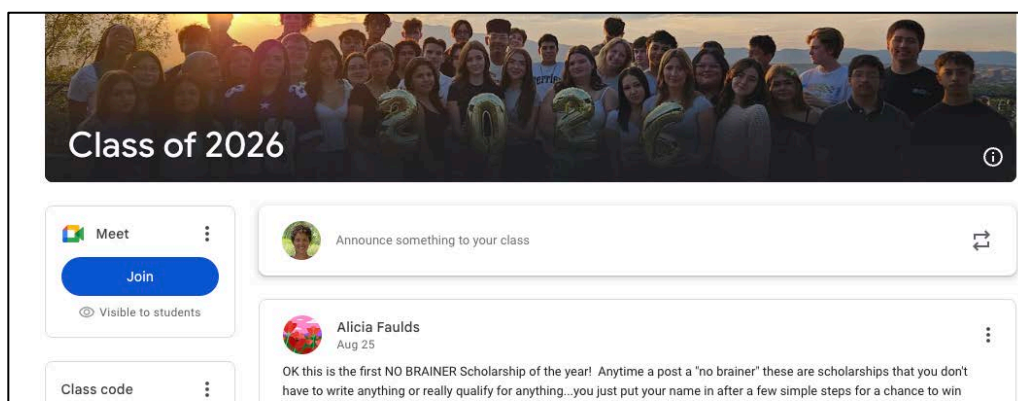
[blatner@aps.edu](mailto:blatner@aps.edu)

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### Welcome Back ECA Students and Parents,

If you are new to ECA, welcome to the best high school in New Mexico! We strive to keep the rigor strong with a supportive community to help our students achieve.

Just a few notes or reminders for returning students. You will hear a lot from me throughout the school year. **9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades all have a grade level Google Classroom.** This is where I do most of my communications with students through announcements.



It is imperative that students get in the habit of checking those announcements. I will post lots of student opportunities, jobs, job fairs, college fairs, scholarships, college fly in programs, dual credit workshops, etc. As cool opportunities come across my desk, I post them in the appropriate grade level Google Classrooms. Our ECA Activities Coordinator and Work Based Learning and Internship Coordinator post many announcements in the Google Classrooms as well. ECA puts out a monthly newsletter. This is where I will put all Google Classroom announcements together for parents to read along with other relevant information. PLEASE, students and parents, take the times to read these communications and resources to stay informed. It is a challenge to answer lots of individual emails asking questions about items that I have provided information on already for students and parents in multiple places. If you are a returning student, you will continue to use the same "class of" Google Classroom from last year. If you are new to ECA, watch out for an email invitation to your grade level classroom in the next couple of weeks!

Along with the Google Classroom announcements and the monthly newsletter, I also have my own **ECA counseling webpage** on our website. I have TONS of information there on everything from work permits to financial aid. Check this out here: <https://cec.aps.edu/our-school/counseling>

I will also be providing many **advisory lessons** throughout the year on relevant topics such as: Welcome to high school and how to read a transcript (9th), preparing for PSAT/SAT (10th and 11th), College Admissions and Financial Aid (12th), etc. We will have at least four college presentations for seniors during advisory as well. It is very important that your student attend advisory at ECA.

**I will be hosting a virtual SENIOR NIGHT on Tuesday, September 2nd from 6:15 to 7:15 PM for all ECA seniors and their parents.** I want to make sure you have a road map to navigate your senior year and college admissions! Google Meet joining info: Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/fdd-fxo-fms>, or dial: (US) +1 817-482-6407 PIN: 230 973 033#

**A Freshmen/Sophomore Parent Information Night on Tuesday, September 9th from 6:00 to 7:00 PM** will focus on new PED graduation requirements for the class of 2028 and after, coupled with ECA specific graduation requirements. We want to help students and parents map their four years at ECA to meet these requirements. Google Meet joining info: Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/owj-hedk-qxz>, or dial: (US) +1 262-612-3527 PIN: 300 074 204#

**I will host a Junior Night in the Spring on Tuesday, February 17th** to make sure our Juniors are prepared and looking forward to their senior year! Details to come.

**Just a note that I am the only counselor at ECA and CEC.** I work with students to correct schedules, give guidance on dual credit and college admissions AND I am a licensed mental health counselor. Students are welcome to make appointments with me to talk in a private, confidential space about personal issues that may be challenging to them. Please know that ECA also has a Wellness Room. This space is a conducive space for stress reduction and emotional regulation for students with soft music, bean bags and sensory materials to help calm nerves. Students may leave their classrooms with permission to go to the wellness room or come in during lunch for up to 15 minutes before returning to class. Students will be introduced to the room at some point in the beginning of the year during advisory.

We want our students to be academically successful AND we want them to be happy, well rounded young people who feel that they belong to a safe and supportive community.

**Dual Credit:** One of the areas that I get the most questions about is ECA's Dual Credit program. ECA students are required to complete 6 classes of dual credit and/or AP classes. The vast majority of our students continue to take advantage of dual credit classes throughout their four years at both CNM and UNM. When you get a chance, please get the basics about CNM's and UNM's application process on their websites. Students must complete the college's application and registration processes for dual credit. I do not sign them up. I will hold a dual credit workshop for students and parents later this fall but you can get an idea of how things work with these resources on our ECA/CEC website:

<https://cec.aps.edu/cec/cec-course-catalog>

<https://cec.aps.edu/cec/cec-course-catalog/cec-dual-credit>

Phew! I think that's everything for now. I am glad that we are all back! See you soon:)

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

ECA/CEC Wellness Room

