

Early College Academy & Career Enrichment Center

Family News

January 12, 2025



PRE-REGISTRATION IS HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

ECA: Time to choose your classes for next year! Through our amazing Advisory program, our 9th, 10th and 11th grade ECA students are engaged in guided transcript and credit review, examining their next-step plans and future goals, and learning how their course choices will continue to advance them on the path to success. ECA students are reviewing both the ECA and CEC course catalogs with their Advisory teacher using tools and supports crafted by our Counselor and Administrative Team, and submitting their course requests for both ECA and CEC courses by late January. This will give our team ample time to review requests, communicate with students and families, and build a master schedule for the 2026-27 school year in accordance with district timelines.

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

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

Meanwhile, our 12th grade students continue to receive guidance around college admissions, financial aid, graduation and more.

CEC Early Registration has begun for current CEC students, and we will open up CEC Course Requests for 2026-27 to ALL high school students starting next week. Check out our online CEC Catalog here: <https://cec.aps.edu/cec/cec-course-catalog>

ECA "SHADOW DAYS"

We are scheduling "Shadow Days" for newly accepted ECA students, including siblings, for the 2026-27 school year. Students can sign up to spend a day in January or February here at ECA, partnered with a current student, to learn more about daily life at ECA. Beginning in February, we will be scheduling Orientation Meetings for families and new students accepted to ECA for the 2026-27 school year. Families should watch their email for additional information.

ECA/CEC BOOSTER CLUB

Please join us for our **ECA-CEC Booster Club meetings** on Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/rif-sybb-ibi> Our meetings are usually the first Monday of the month.

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.

COMING EVENTS:

- Jan. 12 **ECA-CEC Booster Club meeting** (5:30 PM; *virtual – see link at left*)
- Jan. 19 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** – NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 2 **ECA-CEC Booster Club Meeting** (5:30 PM; *virtual – see link at left*)
- Feb. 5 **CEC Recruiting Open House** (5:30-7:00 PM)
- Feb. 12 **ECA & CEC Academic Awards Night**
- Feb. 13 **End of 3rd quarter grading period**
- Feb. 16 **President’s Day** – NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 17 **Junior Night** (6:15-7:15 PM) Online meeting.



CEC TURNS 50! ECA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!

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".

Thank you to these sponsors for helping us celebrate our 50/20 Anniversaries!

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!

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!



50th Anniversary sponsored by



Security Hardware Solutions, LLC



HAPPENINGS AT ECA/CEC:

CAR SMASH

Student Government ran ECA's first ever car smash during finals week, led entirely by students: Jacob Sais and Harrison Sequiera.



WINTER BALL

ECA and CEC had their Winter Ball, crowning Queen Layla Snell and King Vincente Vega (pictured). This event was entirely led by freshmen: Elena Wiggins, Layla Snell, and Mirabelle Duncan.

ECA ESPORTS

ECA Esports had a very successful semester, with teams placing in the top of New Mexico and the entire Mountain Region! ECA Mario Kart 8 Deluxe placed in the top 16 in New Mexico. ECA Rocket League placed in the top 16 in the Mountain Region. ECA Fortnite with Andrew Trujillo and Ethan Erickson (pictured) were NEW MEXICO STATE CHAMPIONS and 2nd place in the Mountain Region!



Follow our accounts on social media!


Instagram:

Career Enrichment Center
> [instagram.com/aps_cec](https://www.instagram.com/aps_cec)

Early College Academy
> [instagram.com/aps_eca](https://www.instagram.com/aps_eca)

ECA Student Government
> [instagram.com/eca_stugov/](https://www.instagram.com/eca_stugov/)

ECA Esports
> [instagram.com/eca_esports](https://www.instagram.com/eca_esports)




Youtube:

Career Enrichment Center
> [youtube.com/@aps_cec](https://www.youtube.com/@aps_cec)

Early College Academy
> [youtube.com/@aps_eca](https://www.youtube.com/@aps_eca)

ECA Esports
> [youtube.com/@eca_esports](https://www.youtube.com/@eca_esports)



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

◆◆◆ [ECA Counselor UPDATE for Spring 2026](#) ◆◆◆

Please visit the new APS College and Career Readiness website: <https://www.aps.edu/counseling-services/college-career-resources>

IMPORTANT DATES

- 01/02/26 [Albuquerque Community Foundation Scholarship portal opens](#)
- 01/15/26 Deadline: [The NMAA Foundation Scholarships](#)
- 01/29/26 Deadline: [The Fidelity Scholars Program](#)
- 02/15/26 Deadline: [Hispanic Scholarship Fund](#)
- 02/15/26 Deadline: [Horatio Alger Scholarship- For Seniors](#)
- 02/21/26 Deadline: [NM Women in Tech Awards Scholarship](#)
- 02/27/26 [Coach Mike "Papa" Brown Scholarship](#)
- 02/28/26 Deadline: [CURE for CANCER Summer Program](#)
- 03/01/26 [Priority Deadline for the NMSU Scholar Dollar\\$ application](#)
- 03/01/26 Deadline: [Horatio Alger Scholarship- For Juniors](#)
- 03/05/26 [WNMU Discovery Day](#)
- 03/14/26 [NMSU Aggie Experience](#)
- 04/01/26 CNM Deadline to receive Bridge to Success Scholarship

▶▶▶ [For Seniors and Families](#) ◀◀◀

▶ [Fee Waiver to apply at NAU \(save \\$\): #REP26](#)

Seniors, check out everything Northern Arizona University has to offer!

NAU offers a range of disciplines, including art, education, engineering, forestry, social sciences, and business. The Honors College and the Graduate College also offer robust programming to support students' career goals.

▶ [Fee Waiver to apply at Fort Lewis College \(save \\$\): FLCAPPLY](#)

► **Schools that Meet 100% of Demonstrated Financial Need**

A list of colleges that meet full demonstrated need (some of which even offset loans with more grant money). These institutions have competitive admissions, but for many working-class families, those policies open the door to a highly valuable education for a fraction of their stated cost and, in some cases, for no cost at all.

<https://blog.collegevine.com/schools-that-meet-100-percent-financial-need>

► **MONEY MONDAYS** 3-6 pm every Monday: FAFSA helpers are ready to help students and parents get their FSA ID and/or complete the FAFSA. This is also a great resource for students and families to ask questions about college, state, and/or federal financial aid. LOG IN LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87698022517>

Upcoming Dates: January: 12, 26 February: 2, 9, 23 March: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 April: 13, 20, 27 May: 4, 11

► **The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is the essential form used to determine a student's eligibility for federal grants, work-study programs, and loans, as well as various state and institutional aid.

The official website to complete and submit the application is <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

► **The CSS Profile (College Scholarship Service Profile)**, required primarily by private schools, is also open (since 10/01). Check out this guide about the CSS Profile and see a list of colleges that require the CSS Profile here. Access the application website here.

◆◆◆ **For ALL Grade Levels and Families** ◆◆◆

You will all take the SAT one time in the spring of your Junior year. If you would like to take the SAT or ACT on your own, you can register for these tests at ACT.org or SAT.org

◆ **SAT Exam Dates/Deadlines**

Exam Date	Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration
March 14, 2026	Feb. 27, 2026	March 3, 2026
May 2, 2026	Apr. 17, 2026	April 21, 2026
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026	May 26, 2026

◆ **ACT Exam Dates/Deadlines**

Exam Date	Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration
February 14, 2026	Jan. 09, 2026	Jan. 23, 2026
April 11, 2026	March 6, 2026	March 24, 2026
June 13, 2026	May 08, 2026	May 29, 2026
July 11, 2026	June 05, 2026	June 24, 2026

◆ **01/05/26 Harvey Mudd College: Women’s Inclusion in Science, Technology, Engineering &**

Mathematics (WISTEM) Program: This free opportunity is for STEM-interested juniors, and preference is given to female students from low-income or rural backgrounds, students with disabilities, and first-generation college students. The application is due January 5.

◆ **02/28/26 Deadline: CURE for CANCER Summer Program**

Want to do real cancer research AND get paid this summer?

What You'll Do:

- Work in labs at the UNM Cancer Center
- Learn from scientists + mentors
- Take a fun intro cancer course
- Build skills for college and future careers

Program Details: 8–10 weeks (June–July), 32–40 hrs/week, Earn up to \$4,400

Who Can Apply: High school students age 16+ with good grades + interest in science. Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Apply at: <https://unmhealth.org/cancer/career>. Application Due: FEBRUARY 28, 2026.

Kickstart your science journey and help fight cancer!

◆ **03/05/26 Discover Your Future at WNMU**

Join us for WNMU Spring Discovery Day and experience life as a WNMU Mustang! Thursday, March 5, 2026, grades 9–12 welcome - we can't wait to welcome you!

- Meet faculty
- Tour our scenic campus
- Sit in on a mock college class
- Explore residence halls
- Enjoy a FREE lunch

Juniors, spring is the perfect time to start planning for college. Come see why Western New Mexico University could be the right fit for you! <https://wnmu.event451.sites.451.io/event/1258424>

◆ **Future-Focused X3 High School Paid Internships:** X3 is a paid internship for high school and early college-age students that pairs interns with local employers to build homegrown talent.

- Real-world Learning: Students are embedded with local employers, learning essential skills and building a stronger workforce pipeline.
- Financial Equity: Interns earn a stipend that respects their time and contributes to their family, replacing minimum wage jobs that offer little learning with rich work experiences that build resumes.
- Social Capital: X3 builds professional connections that transform into new career paths—ensuring historically underserved students receive the mentorship and opportunities they deserve.

◆ **Scholarships:**

NMEAF FAFSA SCHOLARSHIP:

New Mexico Seniors — Want \$500 for College or Trade School? 🏆

The 2026-2027 FAFSA is NOW OPEN, and so is your chance to win a \$500 scholarship just for filling it out!

- No essay
- No stress
- Just complete the FAFSA & register

Monthly winners from now through July 2026!


First drawing: November 2025

Register now! <https://www.nmeaf.org/plan-pay-for-college/scholarships/fafsa-scholarship/>


01/02/26 Albuquerque Community Foundation Scholarship portal opens

Scholarship applications will be available for students to begin applying on January 2, 2026, and the deadline to apply will be April 3, 2026. Attached is a list of the 2025 scholarship programs. If you have any other questions, please contact: Dominic Garcia at 505-883-6240 ext. 1013, abqcf.org (Class of 2025 list, Class of 2026 list coming soon)

01/15/26 The NMAA Foundation Scholarships Portal is OPEN! Over 70 scholarships + \$82,500 available for NM students!

 Academics

 Activities

 Trades / Technical


... and more!

 Athletics

 Business

 Sportsmanship

Deadline: Jan 15, 2026 - Apply now through the NMAA Foundation!

Winners announced in February + honored at State Basketball Championships! 

Apply now: <https://www.nmact.org/foundation/scholarship-forms/>
<https://www.nmact.org/foundation/scholarship-forms/>

01/29/26 The Fidelity Scholars Program isn't just a scholarship; it's a comprehensive support system designed to empower you to achieve your full potential. More than just financial assistance, this program provides a wealth of resources and support to complete your degree.

Eligibility (Class of 2026): The program is open to historically under-resourced and underrepresented students who are permanent residents of Colorado, the District of Columbia, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, **New Mexico**, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island and Texas.

- 2.5 - 3.59 unweighted GPA or GED
- Pell eligible and/or demonstrate financial need
- Attend an in-state college or university

Last year, the Fidelity Scholars Program awarded more than \$2.85 million scholarships to 200 students. Don't miss this opportunity to invest in your future!

Deadline 1/29/26 [UNCF.org/fidelityscholars](https://www.uncf.org/fidelityscholars)

02/15/26 Hispanic Scholarship Fund offers 10,000 students a year support in the form of mentorship, career services, and conferences. The application will open in early January, and selected students are also eligible, though not guaranteed, to receive scholarships ranging from \$500-\$5,000. The first round of the application doesn't require an essay. If eligible, students can apply every year, even through graduate school. The 25-26 application deadline has not been announced, but last year the application deadline was February 15.

02/15/26 Horatio Alger Scholarship

While most other scholarships focus exclusively on academic achievement or leadership potential, Horatio Alger Scholarships are also intended for promising students who have critical financial need, demonstrate integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity, and are determined to succeed.

- Scholarships ranging from \$10,000 to \$52,000
- For students planning to attend designated partner colleges and universities
- Deadline: February 15

KEY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Household income under \$100,000
- Integrity and perseverance when facing adversity
- Full-time high school junior or senior
- 2.0 GPA or higher
- U.S. citizenship

<https://horatioalger.org/scholarships> • [Flyer \(link here\)](#)

02/21/26 NM Women in Tech Awards Scholarship awards two \$2,500 scholarships to 2 women interested in beginning or pursuing an education in tech or STEM fields. The 25-26 application deadline is February 21.

02/27/26 Coach Mike "Papa" Brown Scholarship: Honoring a legacy of leadership, heart, and dedication to student athletes. This scholarship is open to all Albuquerque Public School student-athletes in the Albuquerque Metro Area with a 3.5 GPA or higher. Applicants must plan to attend college or a vocational/trade school by Fall 2026.

Five scholarships will be awarded:

Grand Prize: \$5,000

- First Runner-Up: \$4,000
- Second Runner-Up: \$3,000
- Third Runner-Up: \$2,000
- Fourth Runner-Up: \$1,000

Applications open: August 28, 2025, Deadline: February 27, 2026, Winners announced starting: March 28, 2026
 If you're a driven student-athlete ready to chase your future, this is your moment. Apply now and carry forward Papa Brown's commitment to excellence. 🙌

<https://papabrownscholarship.wixsite.com/scholarship-fund/the-scholarship-1>

03/01/26 Priority Deadline NMSU Scholar Dollar\$ Application for 26/27 academic semesters is OPEN NOW (opened 10/1/26). Visit <https://scholarships.nmsu.edu/> to apply for 2000+ NMSU scholarships TODAY!

03/01/26: Horatio Alger Scholarship- For Juniors. Juniors! Don't miss this opportunity to earn a scholarship for college!

- 105+ scholarships
- Up to \$25,000 each
- Deadline: March 1

KEY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Household income under \$100,000
- Integrity and perseverance when facing adversity

- Full-time high school junior or senior
- 2.0 GPA or higher
- U.S. citizenship

Full details: <https://horatioalger.org/scholarships>

03/02/26 The Jiffy Lube "What Drives You?" High School Scholarship Write 500 words about what drives you. Finalist essays will be selected from the 500-word "What Drives You?" essays. Each finalist will be guaranteed a minimum \$1,500 award if they create and submit a unique 1-2-minute video. video that expands on their essay in their own candid words, visuals, etc. The overall \$5,000 scholarship winner will be chosen from these videos. Open to licensed and driver's education students. Deadline: March 2, 2026!

03/31/26 APS Education Foundation Varsity Award Scholarship 25-26:

Attention APS Class of 2026 seniors! The APS Education Foundation is offering 8 scholarships worth \$1000 each, awarded through a random drawing.

<https://www.aps.edu/education-foundation/impact/scholarships#varsity-scholarship>

How to Enter:

1. Choose a category you've completed.
2. Upload your completion document or photo.
3. You can submit up to 10 entries (one per category).
4. Deadline: March 31, 2026.

BigFuture Scholarships

Scholarships for \$500 and \$40,000 are awarded monthly until February of your senior year. Completing any step enters you in the drawings on the first day of every month. Drawings occur on the first day of every month.

Start Your College List- Opens: December of Sophomore Year & closes: June of Junior Year.

Start Your Career List- Opens: December of Sophomore Year & closes: February of Senior Year

Start Your Scholarship List- Opens: July Before Senior Year & closes: February of Senior Year.

Strengthen Your College List- Opens: July Before Senior Year & closes: October of Senior Year.

Complete the FAFSA- Opens: October of Senior Year (December for Class of 2025) & Closes: February of Senior Year.

Apply to Colleges- Opens in October of Senior Year. Closes: February of Senior Year.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/bigfuture-scholarships/scholarship-details>

The New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) offers a scholarship that covers 100% of the costs for bachelor's and master's degrees in early childhood education, including tuition, books, and fees 📖💰. For degrees, the program covers 80% of tuition 🎓👩🏫. For more details, visit our website: <https://eecd scholarship.org/scholarship-information/>
See the flyer in English/Spanish for more info! [Deadlines can be found here!](#)

Scholarships with deadlines in December 2025

Here are a few reputable scholarship search ideas:

- [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)
- [Bold.org](https://www.bold.org)
- [Going Merry](https://www.goingmerry.com)
- [Scholly](https://www.scholly.com)
- [Fastweb](https://www.fastweb.com)
- [ScholarshipOwl](https://www.scholarshipowl.com)
- Employers -- students & parents/guardians -- check with your employer to see if they offer any scholarships for employees or dependents of employees