



Early College Academy & Career Enrichment Center

Family News

April 2026



ECA-CEC BOOSTER CLUB

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

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.

ECA / CEC SPIRIT WEAR

Show off your school spirit! ECA and CEC spirit wear is now available: [purchase from the online store](#).

All items are 30% off until March 31st.
All funds raised through this store go to ECA/CEC parent booster organization.



ECA PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES / NEXT STEP PLANS

Parent-Teacher Conferences and Next Step Plans must be completed by April 10th. This includes signing off on your student's Next Step Plan, in the Level All platform. This is a new requirement from the Public Education Department. Please ask your student if they sent you the required email, in order for you to sign off on your plan, if they haven't mentioned it to you. This is especially critical for our graduating seniors - the PED will not allow a student to graduate without a signed final Next Step Plan.



COMING EVENTS:

Mar 26-27	Parent Teacher Conferences / Virtual Learning Days
Mar 30-Apr 3	Spring Break (NO SCHOOL)
Apr 6	ECA-CEC Booster Club meeting (5:30 PM; <i>virtual – see link at left</i>)
Apr 11	ECA-CEC Prom
Apr 14 & 15	Parenting Workshop (5:30-7:00 PM, <i>see flyer attached</i>)
Apr 15	Senior Sunset
Apr 18	Senior Parent Breakfast
Apr 23	CEC Career Pathway Awards Celebration (6:00-8:00 PM; <i>UNM Continuing Ed bldg</i>)
May 4	ECA-CEC Booster Club meeting (5:30 PM; <i>virtual</i>)
May 4-8	CEC Senior Finals
May 4-13	AP Exams
May 11-12	ECA Senior Finals
May 13-15	CEC Finals
May 19	ECA Honors & Robing Ceremony
May 21	ECA Commencement Ceremony (9:00-11:00 AM, <i>Berna Facio Center</i>)
May 26-27	ECA Finals, Book & Tech Return
May 28	Last Day of School

PROM • April 11

ECA Student Government presents Prom on **Saturday, April 11th** from 7:00 to 10:00 PM at the **Sheraton Uptown**.

CEC/ECA Prom tickets are on sale now! Early bird pricing lasts until April 1st: [Purchase tickets online](#)
Free and reduced-price prom tickets are available, just speak to Mr. Allen.

Want to help a kid attend prom? [Donate here](#)

Why go to our prom?

- Open to all grades - attend prom as a freshman or sophomore!
- All CEC students are invited. No prom at your charter school? Want to avoid an overcrowded prom? We've got you covered.
- A safe event - last year our prom had zero instances of drugs, alcohol, fighting, or weapons.
- Select attendees in an elegant venue - with 150 guests at the beautiful Sheraton Uptown, give your student a perfect prom experience with us.

Prom spirit week will be April 6-10; Prom assembly for ECA will be April 10th.

PARENTING WORKSHOP • April 14 & 15

ECA/CEC is excited to, once again, partner with Faith Works Counseling to host the free 2-part **Effective Strategies for Navigating the Teenage Years workshop**. This workshop will be held on **April 14 & 15 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm**.

Parents/guardians will learn how to: most effectively communicate with their teen; how to create boundaries; help their teen regulate their often-changing emotions; foster connection; as well as strategies for safety when out in the community; and much more. [Register here](#). (See attached flyer)

CEC CAREER PATHWAY AWARDS CELEBRATION • April 23

Please join us on **April 23rd from 6:00 to 8:00 pm** as we recognize and celebrate CEC/ECA students who have completed three courses in a specific pathway. The ceremony will be held at the UNM Continuing Education building, 1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131.



ECA GRADUATION • May 21

Soon we will come together as a school, a community, and a family to honor the graduating class of 2026. This is the culmination of their years in school, a beautiful send off to greater things in careers and higher education. As our school has grown in renown and accomplishments, so has our student body, which brings with it some unfortunate growing pains. APS school of choice graduation ceremonies occur at the Berna Facio Professional Development Center, which has a capacity of 300 seats. To ensure that ECA families can all have an equally comfortable and accessible seat for this momentous occasion, we are distributing tickets for this event.

On Monday April 20th, during advisory class, each ECA senior will be given an envelope with six (6) tickets for the ECA Graduation Commencement Ceremony. Those tickets will guarantee entry and seating for those six guests. Adults and children who require a seat will need a ticket for entry. Strollers and children/infants that can sit in laps will not need a ticket.

Schedule for Commencement Day (Thursday, May 21)

- 7:15 AM - Graduating seniors are required to arrive at the Berna Facio Professional Development Center (3315 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110)
- 8:30 AM - Doors open to ticket-holders. Each graduating student receives six (6) tickets for guests. Guests without tickets will not gain admission.
- 8:50 AM - Remaining guests without tickets will be admitted to standing room only.
- 9:00 AM - Ceremony begins and doors close. No further admittance.

What if we lose the tickets? Replacement tickets will not be given for any reason. Guests without tickets will be admitted at 8:50 AM to fill the standing room at the back of the venue.

What do we do with extra tickets? Extra tickets should be given to Mr. Allen. He will distribute them to other families as needed.

How do we get more tickets? Your student should ask other ECA students and families if they have extra tickets they are willing to part with. Otherwise, there are no more tickets available.

The Graduate Robing Ceremony on Tuesday, May 19th at 6:30 PM will NOT be ticketed. For that event, we only ask that larger families arrive early to find seats together.

FINALS SCHEDULES

Finals are just around the corner. See the dates below for the dates of your student's finals. You must email Assistant Principal Diane Thomas to request an early final (thomas_d@aps.edu).

CEC Finals

- Seniors - May 4, 5 & 6
- Underclassmen - May 13, 14 & 15

ECA Finals

- Seniors - May 11 & 12
- Underclassmen - May 26 & 27 (Make-ups May 28 before 11am). Final semester grades due @ 3:00 pm that day.

SCENES FROM OUR 50/20 BLOCK PARTY ON MARCH 19TH!



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

► [For Seniors and Families](#) ◀

Check out this presentation on "[Options After High School](#)".

Scholarship season is in full swing!!! Don't forget to check out [APS's awesome list of scholarships](#)....you can't win anything if you don't apply! A few highlighted scholarships:

► 2026 UNM American Indian Summer Bridge

The 2026 UNM American Indian Summer Bridge (AISB) is now accepting applications!

The "Quick Facts":

- 3-week residential summer program to help Native students transition to UNM.
- When: June 20 – July 10, 2026.
- Perks: Earn college credit/GPA early, build community, and UNM Orientation fees are covered upon completion.
- Eligibility: Incoming Fall '26 UNM freshmen, enrolled tribal members, FAFSA completed.

Deadline: May 29, 2026 (Space is limited!)

🔗 Apply now: <https://aisb.unm.edu/aisb-programs/index.html>

📧 Questions? aisb@unm.edu | 505.277.6343

► Sgt. Marty Martinez Scholarship

Attention Seniors! 🎓 **New APS Scholarship Opportunity: The Sgt. Marty Martinez Scholarship**

If you are planning to pursue a career in Education or Law Enforcement, this local scholarship is for you. This award honors the life and service of Sergeant Marty Martinez, a Valley HS alum who served in the U.S. Army, APD, and as an APS Resource Officer.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a current APS Senior.
- Must be attending college in Fall 2026.
- Must be pursuing a career in Education or Law Enforcement.

How to Apply: Complete the [application form](#) and submit an essay (details in the application).

 **Deadline: April 15, 2026**

Don't miss out on this local opportunity! Local scholarships often have fewer applicants than national ones, giving you a much better chance of winning.

► JB White Foundation Gun Violence Awareness Scholarship

The JB White Foundation is proud to announce the launch of a new educational support opportunity for New Mexico students whose lives have been impacted by gun violence and who are committed to building safer communities. The foundation will award 10 scholarships of \$1,000 each to graduating high school seniors or individuals who have completed a GED within the past 12 months. Scholarship funds may be used toward college tuition, trade school, certification programs, books, or other educational expenses.

This scholarship was created to recognize the students who have experienced the effects of gun violence and who are choosing education as a pathway toward healing, leadership, and positive change.

To apply, students must:

- Be a graduating high school senior or have completed a GED within the past 12 months

- Plan to enroll within six months in a college, university, community college, trade program, or certification program
- Demonstrate a personal connection to gun violence, which may include:
 - Survivor of gun violence
 - Family member of a victim
 - Witness to gun violence
 - Loss of a loved one due to gun violence
 - Living in a community heavily impacted by gun violence
 - Participation in violence prevention, trauma recovery, or advocacy efforts

Applicants will submit:

- Personal Essay (750–1,200 words) describing their experience and educational goals
- 1 Letter of Recommendation (teacher, counselor, mentor, community leader, or employer)
- Proof of eligibility: Transcript or enrollment verification (high school seniors), or GED completion documentation.
- Optional materials such as artwork, poetry, or advocacy work may also be included as part of the application.

Additional application information and deadlines are posted at: www.jbwhitefoundation.org

For questions or additional information, please contact: JBWhiteFoundation@gmail.com

◆ For ALL Grade Levels and Families ◆

◆ **Become an APS Foundation Student Board Member!**

Want to make a real difference city-wide? Apply to join the APS Education Foundation board, and decide what projects get funded here in APS. Meet directly with the Superintendent and the head of the Board of Education. **HUGE OPPORTUNITY, talk to Mr. Allen for more details.**

<https://www.aps.edu/education-foundation/who-we-are/board/student-board-members>

◆ **CNM Summer Classes Important Note:**

We encourage you to take courses over the summer at CNM and UNM. If you are planning on this and this is your first summer doing so, please be aware that UNM classes start after ECA classes are done **but CNM classes OVERLAP with the last two weeks of ECA classes**. If you have registered or plan to register (you should do this ASAP if so!), you will need to look at your CNM schedule to see if courses overlap with courses at ECA. If so, you will need to discuss missing ECA classes with the applicable teachers IN ADVANCE. Teachers have been flexible with this over the years but you must let them know as soon as you can so that they can plan for make-up work or potentially a make-up final.

◆ **UNM Health Professions Symposium • April 11th**

UNM Health Professions Symposium is the largest informational health convention in the state, run entirely by students, and made for and by those with a passion in healthcare. Admission is FREE and food will be provided! Confirmed Count: 102 Tables and 94 workshops.

Here are workshop highlights for example:

- Interactive UNM Dermatology Bioskills - Dr. Aimee Smidt, Dr. Surya Veerbagu, Lisa Long, PA-C and Medical Students
- The Body of Evidence: A Forensic Pathologist's Casebook - Dr. Daniel F. Gallego
- Emergency Medicine Resuscitation Simulation - Dr. Daniel Gee & UNM EM Faculty

Location: Domenici Hall on UNM's North Campus

Cost: 100% free to attend

Free Lunch: Dion's, Yasmine's Cafe, and Mata G's Vegetarian Cafe

Sign up here: <https://hps.unm.edu/registration>

High school students will receive an electronic certificate for attending. Contact us for accommodations!

◆ UNM Spring 2026 Study Abroad & Exchange Fair – April 14th

Ready to trade the classroom for the Eiffel Tower? ✈️🌍 Or maybe a semester in NYC?

The Spring 2026 Study Abroad & Exchange Fair is almost here! Whether you're a high school Junior or Senior, come see where your future at UNM can take you. From international adventures to national exchanges, the world is yours to explore! ✨

When: April 14th | 10am – 2pm

Where: UNM Student Union Building (SUB) Atrium

Visit the UNM website for more information: <https://studyabroad.unm.edu/>

◆ Native American Summer Opportunities at SIPI! ☀️

Ready to earn college credits for FREE? Whether you're a high school junior/senior or a recent graduate, SIPI has a path for you. Check out these incredible summer opportunities:

DUAL CREDIT (Rising HS Juniors & Seniors)

Take up to 2 in-person courses at NO cost!

Navajo Government: Qualifies for the Chief Manuelito Scholarship! (June 2 – July 28)

Art Foundations: Master drawing & color principles. (June 2 – July 28)

Culinary Arts Camp: A 3-week intensive on knife skills & food theory. (July 13 – July 31)

⚠️ **Apply by: May 13, 2026**

SUMMER BRIDGE (Class of 2026)

A 4-week residential program for tribal members to help you transition smoothly to college life!

When: June 28 – July 24

Cost: FREE to attend!

⚠️ **Apply by: June 10, 2026**

📍 Location: SIPI Campus, 9169 Coors Blvd. NW, ABQ

🔗 How to Apply: Visit www.sipi.edu or contact Bobbi Brown (Dual Credit) at bobbi.brown@bie.edu.

◆ Girls Who Code: Pathways Summer Program

Girls Who Code's free, virtual Pathways program is back for Summer 2026! **Girls Who Code Pathways is a free, flexible 7-week online program running June 29–August 14.**

This is your chance to explore the world of tech at your own pace, create meaningful tech-for-good projects, and join a supportive global community of students who love creating and problem-solving just like you.

- Create personalized, purpose-driven tech projects that reflect what matters to you
- Explore AI 🤖, Game Design 🎮, Cybersecurity 🛡️, and Data Science 📊 at your own pace
- Build meaningful connections with industry mentors and a supportive global community 🌍

Visit the [website](#) to learn more and apply.

◆ 2026 Joy of Coding – U. of Michigan Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Enrollment has opened for the 2026 Joy of Coding online courses created by the University of Michigan Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering for high schoolers who want to experience first-hand the power and thrill of coding computers, including AI, to do amazing things. These college-level, high-school-student-accessible Intro to coding, AI and data science courses are offered in a learn-at-your-pace, online, fully instructor-supported format.

Students may begin our courses any time after June 17, 2026, and complete them at their own pace by August 28, 2026. Each course requires about 4–6 hours per week.

Courses Offered:

- **Intro to Coding and Computational Thinking:** No coding experience required. Ideal for beginners with no prior coding background who want to experience the power of coding firsthand.

- **Intro to Data Visualization and AI:** A perfect follow-up for students with prior coding experience (such as our Intro to Coding Course or AP Computer Science) who want to learn how AI works to ultimately train, evaluate and improve their own AI.
- **Intro to Training, Evaluating and Fine-tuning an AI:** An excellent introduction to students who have completed the data and visualization and AI course on how modern AI systems learn from data.

Prerequisites:

- Students must be 13 years or older
- Have taken high school algebra
- Have a desire to learn
- Are able to commit 4 - 6 hours a week and chip away at the material daily

Students will:

- Attend weekly asynchronous coding lectures and assignments using an interactive textbook
- Learn to code at their own pace with support from Michigan ECE faculty and students
- Coaching to help them get unstuck when learning to code - everyone gets stuck somewhere, at some point!
- Receive a certificate of accomplishment to bolster their college applications and provide evidence of their ability learn challenging new material in a self-regulated manner.

Course Dates: Start any time after June 17, 2026. Finish any time at one's own pace before August 28, 2026.

Course Cost: \$149 + tax; need-based financial aid available

Priority Consideration: Please apply by **May 31, 2026** on our [website](#).

For further questions, please email joyofcoding@umich.edu.

Follow our accounts on social media!

Youtube:

Career Enrichment Center
> youtube.com/@aps_cec

Early College Academy
> youtube.com/@aps_eca

ECA Esports
> youtube.com/@eca_esports



Instagram:

Career Enrichment Center
> instagram.com/aps_cec

Early College Academy
> instagram.com/aps_eca

ECA Student Government
> instagram.com/eca_stugov/

ECA Esports
> instagram.com/eca_esports





Navigating the Teenage Years

2-Part Series at ECA/CEC

April 14th & 15th • 5:30 - 7:00 pm
(Tuesday & Wednesday)

Parenting teens is not for the faint of heart!

One minute your teen is sweet & loving and the next they want nothing to do with you. Often their choices seem to make little sense. Join us for this free 2-part series to learn about the best ways to motivate and to communicate with your teen. These sessions will share information and strategies that are based on the most recent research about child development and brain-based learning. Outcomes of these sessions include:

- Establish boundaries and open communication
- A deeper understanding of teenage behavior
- Safety in the home and community for parent/guardian & teen

To Register, Click:

<https://forms.gle/a88knpEfexdjSrNw8>.

or Scan:



Light refreshments will be served.

ECA/CEC is located at 807 Mountain Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102



ECA/CEC is proud to partner with **Faith Works Counseling** to bring this workshop series to our students' parents/guardians, at no cost to our families.

Faith Works Counseling is a secular community organization providing mental health services to individuals of all ages.

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OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE

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SPRING
SALE**



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- Drinkware
- And More...

