**ACES Update**

**February, 2015**

**Thank you!**

We want to express our thanks to the attendees at ACES’ first free informational conference for ACES members last week. It was great to see many charter leaders and staff members there and to have the opportunity to network with our members. We greatly appreciate the major sponsorship of Trent Keime and Edgenuity, and the break refreshments sponsored by Alfredo Diaz and AptAbility.

**Leadership Searches**

This is the time of year when changes in charter school leadership typically begin occurring. Regardless of the reason for the changes, searching for and hiring the best possible candidate to lead the school is a Governing Council’s primary responsibility. ACES is dedicated to helping Governing Councils find the very best educational leaders they can. To aid Governing Councils in that process, ACES has several Cadre Professionals that have experience in leadership searches. If your school is anticipating a change in leadership, please give Bruce (575-740-0020, Bruce.H@nmaces.org) ) or Max (Max.L@nmaces.org) a call or send us an email and we would be glad to visit with you about your needs and our services.

**Financial Services**

In addition to changes in leadership, changes in the business managers and financial services often start taking place during the spring. As a key team member in the effectiveness of any school, it is imperative that a school have qualified and experienced business managers and financial service providers in place. Through a competitive RFP process, ACES selected and awarded a contract to AptAbility for financial services. As the creators of Apta Software, which is the accounting software the vast majority of charter schools use, and a current financial services provider to a number of charter schools, AptAbility has the qualifications and experience necessary to provide the utmost in financial services. If you are anticipating a change in business managers, or have a need for high quality financial services, please contact Bruce or Max and we would be happy to meet with you and the folks from AptAbility. Just a reminder that since AptAbility has gone through the competitive bid process through ACES, you can utilize their services without having to go through a formal bid process.

**Activity Buses**

ACES is in the final stages of publishing an RFP for Activity buses for charter schools throughout the state. From talking with many of you, we learned that charters have a great need for access to activity buses at a reasonable cost. ACES hopes to select a vendor, or vendors, that can supply activity buses in various geographic locations throughout the state. We would like to get proposals from the local vendors that many of you are currently using in your area so alert your vendors that the RFP will be published soon. Please have them contact Bruce or Max to get a copy of the RFP and more information.

**Technology Services and Products**

Need help with your technology systems or need new hardware or software? Please check out the ACES approved vendors on our new website at www.nmaces.org.