**ACES Adds Special Education Services**

Due to their complexity, financial implications, and potential legal consequences, special education programs are often very difficult for charter schools to manage. A case in point are the two charter schools that are required by the Public Education Commission to develop and complete Correction Action Plans because of issues with their special education programs.

To help charter schools effectively manage their Special Ed programs, ACES had added to its Cadre staff, Bernice Life, a long-time Special Education administrator and Diagnostician. She has served as the Director of Special Education for 2 school districts, Bernalillo and Espanola, and has worked with numerous schools all over New Mexico. Bernice’s extensive experience with all aspects of Special Education can help a school with any aspect of their Special Education program including: maximizing Special Education funding, file reviews, SAT and RtI training, IDEA applications, differentiating instruction, assistance with audits, coordinating special education testing, and preventing the over-identification of special needs students. Ms. Life can serve as the Special Education Director for a group of schools and for those schools that are individually willing to engage Ms. Life as their Special Education Director, she will also provide diagnostic services as part of her duties.

Bernice’s complete resume can be found on the ACES website at [www.nmaces.com/cadre-members](http://www.nmaces.com/cadre-members) and call or email Bruce Hegwer at 575-740-0020 or bruce.h@nmaces.org for more information how Bernice can strengthen your Special Education program.

**Last Chance Governing Council Training Opportunities**

ACES and the Coalition for Charter Schools are currently developing two final training opportunities for Governing Council members to obtain their required 5 hours of training before the deadline for this year. The trainings will take place online via Skype so that travel will not be required and will be presented by Dr. Hugh Prather. The dates have not been finalized, but will take place later in July or the first part of August. The trainings will be certified by NMCCS and participants will receive a Certificate of Completion. The cost for the complete 5-hours will be $500 for NMCCS members and $600 for non-NMCCS members. An email announcing registration information and training dates will be forthcoming within the next 2 weeks.

**Activity Buses RFP**

ACES recently published a Request for Proposals seeking vendors across the state to provide Activity Bus to charter schools. We heard from a number of charter schools that there was a great need for a lower cost option for activity buses for sporting events, field trips, and other school activities. Our goal is select a vendor/s that a school can use for their activity trips and know they are getting the lowest cost possible. Once we have reviewed, and evaluated the proposals from transportation contractors, we will send a notice to all schools.

**Administrator and Staff Training**

We are in the process of developing a series (once a month) of training for administrators. The series will focus on administrator-employee relations, leadership strategies, school law, school finance, federal programs and other highly important and critical issues for charter school administrators. The details are being completed now and will be made available soon.

ACES, through it Cadre members and/or network of experts, offers customized training for staff members on any subject. Don’t hesitate to call or email Dr. Bruce Hegwer (575-740-0020, Bruce.H@nmaces.org) or Dr. Max Luft (505-269-2109, Max.L@nmaces.org) to discuss your training needs.

**Online Compliance Training**

For those mandatory staff trainings on Sexual Harassment, Blood Borne Pathogens, and Reporting Child Abuse, please consider the online trainings available from Global Compliance Network (GCN) at special pricing through ACES. GCN offers over 100 training modules, often 30 minutes or less, that can be taken at the anytime, anywhere. Through a yearly subscription as low as $200, any modules can be viewed as at any time, by as many employees as you may have, and Certificate of Completion can be provided by GCN. For more information, please call or email Dr. Bruce Hegwer.

**Education Technology/IT Services, Hardware and Software**

Summer time is a good time to review your technology needs and services. Because hardware, software, and services have been competitive bid, a school can purchase from one of the 3 ACES Trusted Partners (LDD Consulting, Harris Technologies and EnvisionIT) and be assured of getting the best possible pricing. If you are contemplating a technology purchase, please call one of these vendors. As an ACES Trusted Partner, you can be assured these companies are charter school supporters and have been vetted through the NM procurement process.