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**Huge Savings on Activity/Field Trips**

Through a competitive bid process, ACES has awarded a contract to Herrera Coaches to provide huge discounts for ACES members on chartering buses for Activity/Field trips. The savings for ACES members over non-ACES members are: 11% savings on standard rates for a minimum trip; 50% savings per hour at 5 hours; 25% savings per mile; and, 11% savings for the coach rental.

The buses originate the trips from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, or Pojoaque. All a school needs to do is to call Martin (pronounced Marteen) Herrera at 505-270-1001 to schedule the bus. Herrera Coaches will bill the school directly. Purchasing of bus trips this way are covered by the Procurement Code. A copy of the Herrera Response is available on the ACES Website.

Again, this is a huge savings for ACES members. If you school is not an ACES member yet, please contact Bruce at Bruce.H@nmaces.org or Max at Max.L@nmaces.org for membership information.

**Special Education Program Assistance**

ACES has available Ms. Bernice Life to assist charter schools with any and all aspects of their special education programs. Bernice has extensive experience as a special education director and is extremely knowledgeable in all aspects of providing a high quality special education program. From developing and facilitating IEP’s to managing special education financing, Ms. Life can help guide a school toward designing and implementing an exemplary special ed program. In addition, for those schools that are interested in Bernice’s services as a special education director, she can also provide diagnostician services. For more information on Ms. Life and her services, please contact Bruce or Max.

**Save the Date-NMCCS Conference**

The New Mexico Coalition for Charter Schools (NMCCS) has announced the State Charter School Conference has been set for October 29, October 30 and 31.  This year’s conference theme is “Charter Schools: Advancing the Promise” and will be held at the Albuquerque Marriott.

**Business Office Services**

ACES offers discounted business office services to its members through aptaAbility. ACES members can utilize aptAbility’s services without having to go to bid because the services have been competitively bid and are in compliance with the Procurement Code. AptAbility brings added value to their services because of their expertise with the Apta Software and they provide financial reports that makes understanding the financial position of the school much easier. A brochure on aptAbility’s services is attached. Please call them for an analysis on how they can enhance your business office operations.

**IT Services**

With school starting in just a few days, now is the time to review your IT program and system. ACES has 3 vendors under contract that offer discounts on hardware, software, and IT services for ACES members. Those vendors are EnvisionIT, Harris Technology, and LDD Technology Services. More information on each of these vendors is available on the ACES website at [www.nmaces.org](http://www.nmaces.org/).

**Charter Operations Technical Assistance**

ACES has a cadre of experienced charter school professionals that can help any school with any issue. From searching for a new leader, to understanding what test scores mean and how to improve instruction, to observing and evaluating teachers, to assisting with charter renewals, the ACES cadre staff can assist with any project or need a school may have. For more information on the technical assistance available through ACES, please contact Bruce or Max.