



**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**  
**EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE**  
**HELPING OUR CHILDREN OF TOMORROW**  
**E-Newsletter No. 17 – February 2004**

**CONGRATULATIONS! FELICIDADES!**

**EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT...** This corner will be set aside to recognize a College of Education staff member (faculty, staff, or student employee) each month. If you would like to nominate a staff member to be recognized as the employee of the month, please submit a paragraph to this newsletter each month.

This month we recognize Cheryl Coker from the PERD department. During the past year, the Physical Education, Recreation and Dance department experienced a loss of 60% of their faculty. In addition, there was a change in the department chair, which left only two faculty in PERD for a brief time. This loss required the remaining faculty to cover not only their own assigned duties but also the duties of the outgoing faculty. One individual in particular, Dr. Cheryl Coker rose to the occasion. She assumed many of the roles left by her former colleagues. In addition, she was left with the task of organizing three search committees in an effort to hire new faculty. Remarkably, she managed to simultaneously maintain a vigorous research agenda including having her first book published. Currently, she has been extremely instrumental in assisting new faculty in their orientation to NMSU and has served as an excellent mentor. But even more importantly is her dedication to the students. Even though at times she is inundated with additional duties and tasks, she always makes time for her students. Her door is open whenever students require her assistance. Her performance demonstrates her indefatigable dedication and perseverance to higher education.

**A NOTE FROM THE RECRUITMENT & RETENTION CORNER...**

\*Applications for Student Ambassadors will be available in March from the Dean's Office.

**HAPPENINGS & HIGHLIGHTS...**  
**COUNSELING & EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

**EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT**

\*Dr. Rhonda McClellan has been working on a new course focusing on bi-national educational leadership as it pertains to bilingual/indigenous curriculum in public and private institutions. The course will meet online for three weeks, May 10-June 1. The class will then travel into Mexico, Chihuahua City, Cuautemoc, Creel and Copper Canyon, visiting K-12 systems, technological centers, a public university and private institutions. The trip will conclude with a one-week online discussion.

\*Dr. Mary Prentice was selected as the evaluator for a \$1.2 million national project, "Community Colleges Broadening Horizons through Service Learning, sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) with funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Over the next three years, eight community colleges will work to develop and enhance curriculum-based service learning initiatives. Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that combines community service and classroom instruction, with a focus on critical, reflective thinking, as well as personal and civic responsibility. Dr. Prentice presented at the AACC Summit in Washington, D.C. on February 4-7, 2004.

\*Dr. Eduardo Arellano, Dr. Ramon Dominguez and Dr. Mary Prentice, are on the project evaluation team for the newest phase of the Rural Community College Initiative (RCCI). The RCCI, started in 1994 with funding from the Ford Foundation, was developed to focus on the collaborative planning process that would result in place-based economic development and expanded access to education in community colleges. In this latest phase, coaches from Land Grant, 1890, and Tribal College institutions provide coaching to selected community colleges and community teams.

\*Dr. Maria Luisa Gonzalez, Dr. Elsy Suttmeier, LIBRA cohort, and Ms. Isela Jacquez, SILTS cohort, will be traveled to Albuquerque in early February to present at the National Association for Bilingual Education

national conference (NABE). Dr. Elsy Suttmiller also serves on the national board of NABE.

\*Dr. Abe Armendariz's article, *The Ganas To Lead in Delegitimizing Negative Biases Towards Students of Mexican Ancestry* was published in the Scholar-Practitioner Quarterly; vol. 1 No. 4.

\*Dr. Abe Armendariz received the Matias L. Chacon Bilingual Education Award at the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education reception on February 6<sup>th</sup>, in Albuquerque, NM. The award is given to an individual that strongly supports Bilingual Education and that has been an advocate on its behalf. State Senator Matias L. Chacon (Las Vegas, NM), was the first legislator to submit legislation on behalf of bilingual education. His legislation became law 27 years ago and has been strongly supported by other legislators ever since.

\*The State legislature recently approved \$200,000 in funding to create the Center for Border Educational Leadership. The Center will address the achievement gap of PK-12 students from urban, rural, and small school districts in the U.S.-Mexico border region through the preparation and professional development of education leaders. The Center will also conduct research that will serve as resource to educational leaders and policymakers. This has occurred through the efforts of Dr. Maria Luisa Gonzalez and Dr. Eduardo Arellano who testified before the New Mexico Senate Education Committee and the New Mexico Senate Finance Committee to advocate for the establishment of the Center for Border Educational Leadership (Senate Bill 93 sponsored by State Senator Cynthia Nava).

\*Dr. Mary Prentice assisted in the planning of and presented at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Summit on Service Learning Institutionalization for Chief Academic Officers in Washington, D.C., February 5-6, 2004.

\*Dr. Prentice also co-edited a special edition of the Journal of Asynchronous Learning Networks. It is titled, *The Role of Asynchronous Learning with a Special Focus on the Characteristics of the Community College Movement*.

## EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER & DISTANCE EDUCATION

\*Dr. Teresa Rowilson and Rocio Benedicto, ERC, will be presenting *Meeting the Needs of the Borderlands through a Distance Education Bilingual Endorsement Program* at the Association for Borderlands Studies Conference in Salt Lake City on April 22, 2004.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION RECREATION & DANCE D

\*Dr. Scott Pedersen recently ordered and received seven new specially designed high performance wheel chairs for use in his on-going research and teaching. During the first week of February, Dr. Pedersen was seen using them in his classes demonstrating to his healthy students how individuals with handicaps compete in sports and maintain healthy lifestyles. Dr. Pedersen has many plans for the new chairs in his upcoming research ventures.

In addition, Dr. Pedersen will be offering a course during the second summer session in Adapted Physical Education entitled: *Adapted Physical Education: A Practitioner's Approach* (Graduate: PEP 501 Sect 50, or Undergraduate: PEP 499 Sect 31). This is for anyone interested in special education or physical education with a practical approach in mind. Contact Dr. Pedersen at 6-2071 if interested.

\*The first week in February was also very busy for faculty in PERD. Drs. Cheryl Coker, Joe Berning, Kim Oliver, Scott Pedersen (and his wife Shannon) and Ms. Debra Knapp all presented research projects at the 2004 Southwest District Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Convention in Albuquerque. In addition, Dr. Scott Pedersen also presented original research at an Adapted Physical Education Conference in Arizona in the same weekend.

\*Dr. Peter Maud was in Santa Fe lobbying for funds in support of a wellness program designed to promote healthy and active lifestyles for NMSU students. Hopefully, he is successful in his quest as his project ideas would benefit students for many years to come.

\*The dance program has developed the Jose Tena Endowed Dance Scholarship. \$3000 toward the \$10,000 needed has been raised. This scholarship will be used toward tuition for students seeking a degree in dance.

\*Community dance classes have increased over last semester from two classes per week to 10 classes per week. The program only in the 5th week has a net profit of \$2000. This money will be used to fund scholarships to dance students to attend conferences and summer dance programs.

\*In December, the dancers participated in an exchange with the Emmanuel Children's Home in Juarez. 45 children performed in the Nutcracker that was directed by junior dance major, Kirsten Avelar, and choreographed and performed by NMSU dance majors. This was a memorable event, inspiring our dancers to continue working with under privileged youth. The dance program would like to create a dance production that is performed by these students and presented here in Las Cruces as a way to help raise money for this orphanage. Help is needed in obtaining a day visa for these students. If anyone wants to help, call Debra Knapp, 646-2070.

\***"Sabor de Espana" (Flavor of Spain)** was presented at the Court Youth Center on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. A fun-filled taste of Spain with "Tapas" (Spanish Style appetizers), music and a performance of Flamenco dance with NMSU Dance faculty Lucilene deGeus, Paco Antonio and NMSU dance students. More importantly, this fund-raiser benefits the exciting opening of the Charter School at Court Youth Center fall of 2004. For ticket information call the Court Youth Center, 541-0145.

### Special Education/Communication Disorders

### UPCOMING EVENTS...

\*Children's Village Advisory Board meeting on March 1, 2004 at the Children's Village complex on Sam Steele Road at 3:30 p.m.

\*The Regional Educational Technology Assistance (RETA) Program is offering free on-line professional development workshops. Topics for the seminar include Web design, facilitating online teaching, technology and project-based learning, media literacy, assessment and evaluation, grant writing, palm handheld integration and the 3-tier licensure system demystified. The sessions are scheduled as follows:

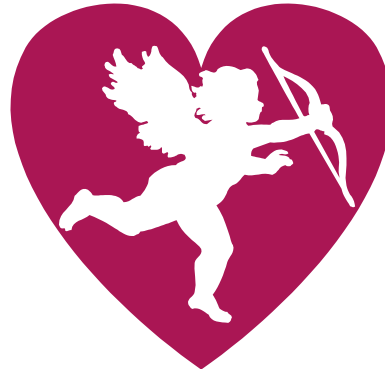
Session 1 Jan. 12 to Feb. 15

Session 2 Feb. 23 to March 28

Session 3 April 5 to May 9

All workshops are five weeks with a one-time one-week Tech Boot Camp required before participants start their first online workshop. A credit option is available. Visit <http://reta.nmsu.edu> and click on Professional Development to learn more.

\*The CoE Support Staff will be selling nachos on Wednesday, March 3 from 11:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. in the O'Donnell Hall Lobby. Profits will go to the Faculty & Staff Scholarship.



**Submissions:** We welcome your ideas, comments, and suggestions. The electronic newsletter is released within the first week of each month. Deadline for submission is the last week of the month. Email submissions to: [iquinone@nmsu.edu](mailto:iquinone@nmsu.edu) or by mail to: MSC 3AC