

## **ACES UPDATE-September 2014**

### **Facilities Master Planning**

The Public Schools Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) is providing financial assistance to state-chartered charter schools to update or develop a Facilities Master Plan (FMP). A 5-year FMP is required of all schools. The deadline for applications for these funds is 5 pm, Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Richard Romero, formerly of the Public Schools Facility Authority, and now an ACES Cadre member, is available to provide assistance with the application for these funds. In addition, Richard can assist a school with any of their facilities planning needs. Please contact Richard at [Richard.R@nmaces.org](mailto:Richard.R@nmaces.org).

### **Grant Writing Workshop**

Dr. Lou Lafrado, ACES Cadre member and Grant Writing Specialist, recently held a grant writing and program evaluation workshop. The 2-hour session was attended by 8 charter leaders. Dr. Lafrado spoke on the importance for charters to collaborate when writing grants. Grant funders like to fund projects that reach a larger number of students and if two or more schools apply for a grant together, the chances of getting the project funded is much greater. Also, schools with different needs can be incorporated into the same proposal. Dr. Lafrado is an expert at how to incorporate the differing needs of several schools into a single grant proposal. By collaborating with another school on a grant proposal, the cost is shared among the schools and makes it much more cost effective. Please contact Dr. Lafrado at [Lou.L@nmaces.org](mailto:Lou.L@nmaces.org) for information on grants and how to partner with other schools.

### **ACES Continues to Grow-Reaches Milestone!**

Currently, 44 charter schools are members of ACES (or have their applications pending at DDFA). Of those schools, 28 utilizing one or more of the services provided by ACES under 38 separate contracts. The total value of those contracts is now exceeding \$1,000,000! This is evidence that ACES is fulfilling the needs of its members; charters need assistance in many ways; and, ACES provides a cost-effective method of meeting those needs. Many thanks to our current members and if you are interested in becoming a member, or have a particular need, please contact Dr. Bruce Hegwer ([bruce.h@nmaces.org](mailto:bruce.h@nmaces.org)) or Dr. Max Luft ([Max.L@nmaces.org](mailto:Max.L@nmaces.org)).

### **Great Resource for Used Furniture, Equipment, Technology, Vehicles and Other Items.**

Many of you may not know that the New Mexico State Agency for Surplus Property collects surplus property from state and federal agencies and makes them available, at a very, very low cost, to schools. Their office and warehouse are located at 1990 Siringo Road in Santa Fe. This is a great place to look when you are looking for tables, chairs, monitors, computers, filing cabinets and even vehicles. If they don't have what you are looking for, you can give them your "wish list" and they will call you if they come across the items you are looking for. To obtain more information and an Application for Eligibility, please call or email Terrie Romero, 505-476-1949 or [TheresaL.Romero@state.nm.us](mailto:TheresaL.Romero@state.nm.us).

### **Substitute Principal**

Recently, I had the great fortune to spend the whole week as a "substitute" Principal at Health Sciences Academy in Santa Teresa while their Principal was attending a training. It was an awesome experience and was fun to get back into a building and engage with teachers and students. While there, I was reminded of the great responsibility and great knowledge charter Principals must have to be successful. More than a building administrator, charter Principals are small district Superintendents expected to be experts in school finances, federal programs, school law, special education, technology, data reporting, cafeterias, transportation, extra-curricular activities, personnel, evaluations, parent engagement, community relations and compliance issues. These are in addition to the main responsibility for the educational component of the school. I kept a log of my daily activities just to document the various items I addressed each day. The vast majority of those items were necessary organizational tasks, but very few actually related to the classroom. *So, to all of the charter Principals, thanks for the awesome job you do!*

To learn more about ACES, please visit our website at [www.nmaces.org](http://www.nmaces.org).