



ACES Insights

April 2025

Christy Takacs, Executive Director

As each of you are working on budgets and plans for next year, don't forget that ACES has over **50 cooperative purchasing contracts** with quality vendors who provide a variety of services. Check them out [here](#)! Our most recent contract award is to **AllyOp** who provides schools with the implementation of the Explore Learning Model. We are excited to help coordinate this year's **Charter School Job Fair**. If your school is interested in participating, you can find information on how to get registered below. ACES also can help you fill **vacancies** (jobs@nmaces.org) and provide **substitute services** (substitutes@nmaces.org). Reach out to Sharon Myers to learn more.



AllyOp

AllyOp provides schools with comprehensive support for the implementation and operations of the Explore Learning Model. Having founded the Model and schools that implement the Model, the AllyOp team members are experts in this innovative learning framework that provides each student with a personalized educational experience through the power of student choice, allowing each student to create a unique educational pathway in preparation for college and career futures. The AllyOp team

provides support, training, and assistance with all aspects of the Explore Learning model including: implementation of the Explore Learning Model in its entirety; set up and monitoring of curricular framework; teacher, staff, and administrative professional development and training; teacher mentorship and coaching; evaluation of curriculum; student credit data and graduation progress tracking and reporting; student scheduling; implementation of assessment program and training; common core term assessments; leadership coaching, support, and professional development;

special programs oversight and support; and weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual data monitoring and reporting.

Reach out for more information!

Melissa Hernandez

info@allyop.com



Schola

Upcoming Webinar

Subject: AI 101 for Educators: Practical Tips on Using AI for Recruitment

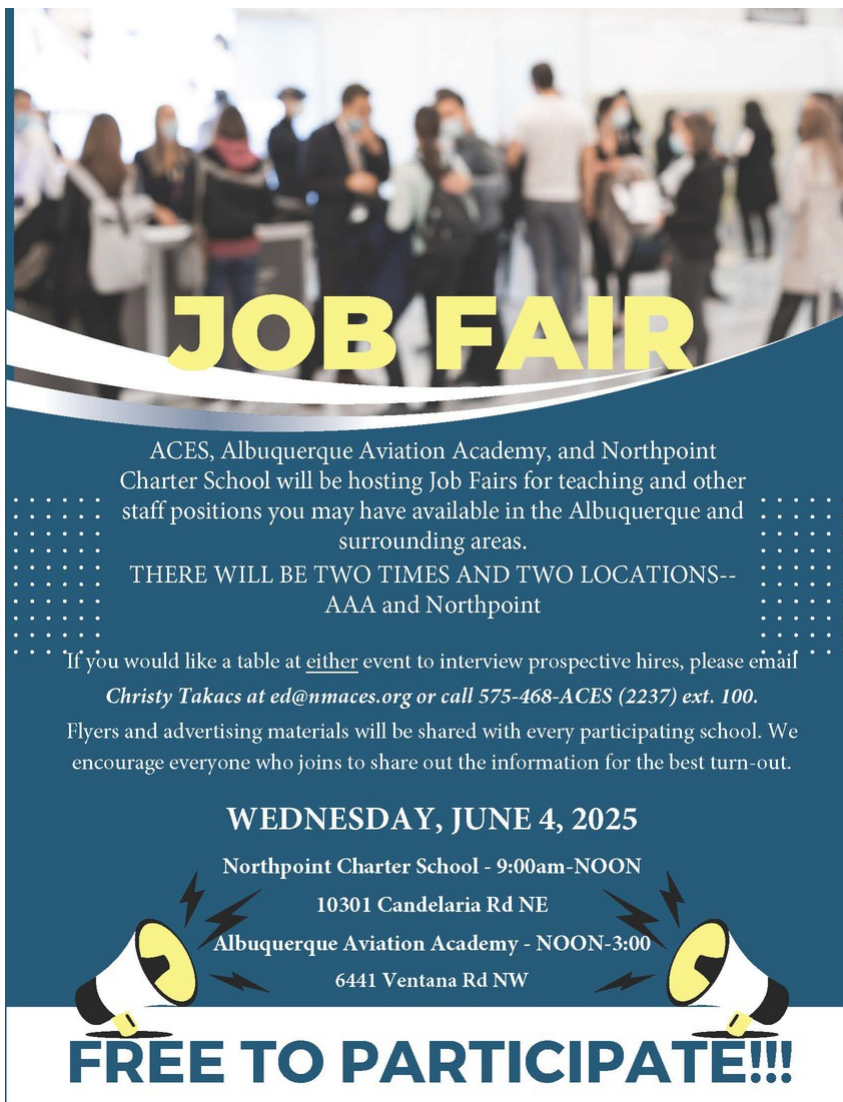
[Here's the registration link!](#) And the time will be 4/30 (Wednesday) at 10AM

Description:

Curious about AI but not sure where to start? This session is designed specifically for school leaders and educators who want to understand the power of AI without needing a tech background. You'll get a clear, practical overview of how AI can support recruitment, streamline tasks, and help your school run more efficiently. Through real-world examples, prompt-writing tips, and tool suggestions, you'll leave this session feeling confident about what AI is, how to use it, and how to do so ethically and effectively.

What Participants Can Expect to Take Away from This Presentation:

- By the end of this session, school leaders will walk away with:
 - A foundational understanding of AI
 - Prompt engineering tips you can use immediately with tools like ChatGPT
 - Real examples of how AI can save time on common school leader tasks
 - Insights into the ethical use of AI—including privacy, plagiarism, and bias concerns
 - A list of AI tools (many free!) that are ready for immediate use
 - Real prompts to create content like emails, texts, social media, and more—faster
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JOB FAIR

ACES, Albuquerque Aviation Academy, and Northpoint Charter School will be hosting Job Fairs for teaching and other staff positions you may have available in the Albuquerque and surrounding areas.

THERE WILL BE TWO TIMES AND TWO LOCATIONS--
AAA and Northpoint

If you would like a table at either event to interview prospective hires, please email **Christy Takacs** at ed@nmaces.org or call 575-468-ACES (2237) ext. 100.

Flyers and advertising materials will be shared with every participating school. We encourage everyone who joins to share out the information for the best turn-out.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025

Northpoint Charter School - 9:00am-NOON
10301 Candelaria Rd NE

Albuquerque Aviation Academy - NOON-3:00
6441 Ventana Rd NW

FREE TO PARTICIPATE!!!



Procurement Corner

We can see the month of May right around the corner, how fast the year flies! I felt this might be a helpful time to provide information that could be beneficial when doing budgeting, as well as provide resources and a few procurement “tools” that can help busy people accomplish purchases more quickly and efficiently. My hope is that some part of this information may help you or your staff free up a little more time for more important things, even if that’s taking a moment to enjoy a bit of New Mexico sunshine on a day when the wind is only a gentle breeze. Here’s wishing you

more moments of sunshine and those *gentle* breezes!

Author and ACES Procurement Program Manager

Tammy West

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ACES website and contract navigation

ACES has a new website! If you have not had the opportunity to check it out yet, we encourage you to do so. We have tried to make things easier to access with better search capabilities and provide

important information and documents at your fingertips. Here's some information about how to locate and use ACES contracts for purchasing:

An ACES contract, called an "Agency Agreement and Incorporating Contract" or "**AAIC**" in short, allows ACES Participating Agencies to become party to any contract simply by issuing a PO. (ACES solicitation document and the Contractor's submission are incorporated into that contract by reference and can always be provided upon request.) By implementing these, we have done away with the three-party agreements! 🎉 Using an ACES (or any other eligible contract) to purchase enables Participating Agencies to contract in any amount without procurement threshold limitations. It's because we/they have already done the procurement on your behalf. 😊

All AAICs can be found on our website at nmaces.org under "Contracted Vendors". You can easily find each contractor's name and contract information, along with a link to their website if they have one. If you click on "Learn More" you will find additional information about the Contractor. To view and/or download the AAIC document (which must be kept on file for auditing purposes if used), click "**File: View Active Contract**". All AAICs have instructions for both Agencies and Contractors and terms and conditions specific to that contract. Specific Contractor information, along with pricing when applicable, can be found at the very end of the AAIC under the attachments. We have just recently started including samples of any vendor required contract or other document at the very end of the AAIC as well.

Participating Agencies can decide which Contractor they desire to do business with, negotiate the scope and pricing directly with the Contractor and when ready to proceed, issue a Purchase Order to ACES (for most purchases) or directly to the Contractor if they have a signed direct billing waiver. It's that easy!

Budgeting and ACES Contracts

ACES contracts (AAICs) can be used for budgeting purposes by showing Participating Agencies what specific pricing is or by providing information about how pricing will be determined. If specific pricing is not available in a contract, Contractor's are eager to provide a quote specific to your desired scope, just reach out to them. All contracts allow for pricing, and some allow for specific terms, to be negotiated. Pricing may be negotiated lower than any contract price (*at the Contractor's discretion*) but may never be higher than any pricing listed in the contract. Note that all pricing does not include applicable tax which may need to be considered.

USE OF OTHER COOPERATIVE CONTRACTS

AND

ACES AS A PARTICIPATING AGENCY

When a product or service you are looking for is **not** offered under ACES contract, and you don't want to conduct your own procurement, below is a list (with hyperlinks) of other cooperative purchasing programs which offer similar contracts. Most require your agency to become a participating member. Note that ACES may be able to **be** the participating member on your behalf. This allows POs to be managed through ACES and your agency to forgo having to become a member of the other program. Put plainly, if you desire to purchase from another cooperative organization and are not already a member of that organization, we may be able to handle the registration and contracting component for you, let us know if you're interested! 🙌

The following Cooperative Purchasing Programs use the "Lead Public Agency" procurement model required by NM law. This list is *not* all inclusive and ACES does *not* endorse any particular program. If you would like to know if a cooperative purchasing program not listed below is eligible for use in New Mexico, please reach out, we're happy to assist.

- [Cooperative Educational Services \(CES\)](#)
- [NM State Purchasing - Statewide Price Agreements](#)
- [GSA \(Federal\) Contracts](#)
- [NASPO \(National Assoc. of State Purchasing Officials\)](#)
- [OMNIA Partners](#)
- [TIPS-USA \(The Interlocal Purchasing System\)](#)
- [BuyBoard](#)
- [Sourcewell](#)

NOT SO FUNNY PROCUREMENT FUNNY OF THE DAY:

When you must buy a new one of these because yours blew away again



Sharon Myers

Sharon is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

