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ACES INSIGHTS

October 2025



Note from Executive Director, Christy Takacs

In Memory of Noel Nuñez

We are deeply saddened by the unexpected passing of Noel Nuñez, the much-loved leader of Deming Cesar Chavez Charter School. Noel was a valued member of the ACES Executive Committee. We are profoundly grateful for his dedicated service. He was a remarkable human being who led and lived with passion, integrity, and kindness. Noel filled this world with light and love. His positive energy—and those unforgettable bear hugs—influenced everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. The impact of his leadership and his devotion to his students, staff, and community will be felt for years to come. As a tribute to Noel, we should each strive to live our lives out loud--bringing light and love to this world. He will be deeply missed.

~~~ NEW SERVICES AVAILABLE!! ~~~

Construction Management Services:

**Owner Representation & Technical Assistance**

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ACES is pleased to announce a **new suite of contract offerings** designed to support schools and public agencies through the full life-cycle of construction planning, design, and execution. After a robust and competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, three outstanding firms have been awarded contracts to provide **Construction Management Services and Technical Assistance**. These services give our members access to expert support—from early planning and funding applications to project close-out.

#### What This Means for ACES Members

Members now have streamlined access to experienced construction management and technical assistance professionals—without having to conduct their own lengthy procurement processes. These contracts simplify the path from planning to completion, allowing your organization to stay mission focused on serving students and communities.

To explore how these services can support your upcoming projects, contact ACES at **575-468-2237** or visit [nmaces.org](https://nmaces.org).

We look forward to supporting your capital improvement and construction goals through these newly awarded contracts.

### Meet our awardees!



### Service Details!

#### SCOPE A: Construction Management & Owner Representative Services

These firms will serve as trusted Owner Representatives, guiding agencies through planning, design, construction, and post-construction activities. Core service features include:

- **Full Construction Oversight:** Managing project progress, schedules, contractors, and milestones.

#### SCOPE B: Technical Assistance and Consultation Services

These firms will support agencies with planning, compliance, and technical decision-making for facilities and construction projects. Key offerings include:

- **Project Planning & Scheduling:** Guidance to streamline resource allocation and risk management.

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| <div><div><div>processes.</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Procurement &amp; Contract Support:</b> Guidance with RFPs, vendor selection, and contract execution.</li><li>• <b>Budget, Schedule, &amp; Scope Management:</b> Oversight of planning, design, and value engineering.</li><li>• <b>Owner Representation:</b> Participation in all project meetings and communication with contractors and architects.</li><li>• <b>Reporting &amp; Documentation:</b> Comprehensive tracking of project files including change orders, costs, and risk mitigation.</li></ul></div><div>From concept to ribbon-cutting, these contractors provide end-to-end management to ensure projects finish on time, on budget, and meet the owner's expectations.</div></div><div><div>practices.</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Strategic Facility Assessments:</b> Space utilization studies, renovation vs. replacement evaluations, and multi-project phasing.</li><li>• <b>School-Specific Support:</b> Assistance completing PSFA applications, evaluating funding pathways, and preparing for agency submissions (PSFA, State Fire Marshal, CID, etc.).</li><li>• <b>Infrastructure &amp; Safety Improvements:</b> Support for technology upgrades, athletic facilities, security enhancements, and occupancy/relocation planning.</li></ul></div><div>These services help schools and agencies make informed, strategic decisions that maximize resources and align facilities with long-term goals.</div></div></div> |             |             |



~ PROCUREMENT CORNER ~

Note from Procurement Manager, Tammy West

Since this newsletter is primarily dedicated to announcing the new contracts ACES has available for Construction Management Services, I thought I'd jump on the bandwagon as well with a little blurb about how you can make these contracts best work for you should you decide to utilize them. I hope everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful colors of fall a bit more before they fade. "Autumn is Mother Nature's way of showing off her flair for dramatic exits." ~Anonymous

**Bring in the Construction Manager Early—Your Budget (and Stress Level) Will Thank You!**

Public construction projects run on tight timelines, tighter budgets, and bring with them a whole lot of accountability. That's why looping in a construction manager (CM) during the early planning phase isn't just smart—it's a game-changer.

Think of your CM as your project's reality check with a hard hat. They help spot design hiccups before they become headaches and budget busters, offer cost-saving ideas, and keep your schedule from turning into a guessing game. Waiting until later in the process can be like inviting your mechanic to their first look at your car after it's already broken down. Preventative maintenance and proactive efforts have value down the line, and this is no different.

Early CM involvement means fewer change orders, smoother communication and coordination, and a better shot at delivering on time and on (or *sometimes* under) budget. For public agencies juggling transparency, compliance, governing body and community expectations, that's a win across the board.

So go ahead—invite your CM to the kickoff meeting. Your future self (and your finance team) will thank you.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**Note from ACE Handyman Services:**

*Thank you to our incredible clients and community for trusting Ace Handyman with your schools and projects. We love serving our charter schools and look forward to another year of helping you build an amazing learning environment for New Mexico's kids. -Victor Ulibarri, Owner & General Contractor*

**CALL US: (505)596-0003**

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