

Oct-Dec 2021

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Board of Directors

Robin Treaster, Acting Chair;
Steve Turpen, Treasurer

Board Members

Ashley Solano
Carol Kennedy
Karime Andazola
Marty Padilla
Nick Estes
Peggy Marquez-Garcia
Ruth Sandoval



News and Updates

Stories, News, and Information for ABQ-ALC Students, Parents, and Stakeholders

Message from Robin Treaster, Acting Chair



Welcome to ABQ-ALC's 2nd quarter newsletter and a fresh and promising new student year. As we roll out of a full year of challenges brought on by COVID-19, we are making history as we demonstrate resilience and learn new methods to grow.

As Acting Chair, we are looking forward to many new opportunities to help our staff and students be successful, while staying safe and healthy. Considering the current health climate, we have researched new ways to host our annual fundraising event. Rather than our usual in-person fundraising event, we will be hosting several virtual activities to raise funds for our important mission, including a virtual painting, cocktails, and cooking campaigns. Visit us at www.abqalc.org to participate and/or donate to any of these events. You may also contact us at (505) 907-9957 if you have other ideas on how to help ABQ-ALC make a difference in your community.

Take care of yourselves, friends, family, and colleagues.

Message from Gloria Rael, Executive Director



On August 9, 2021, ABQ-ALC welcomed an influx of prospective participants vying for an opportunity to enroll in in-person instruction. Over the past 16 months we have been proactive, flexible, and committed to online instruction. This new fiscal year, we are eager to offer both synchronous and asynchronous instruction while adhering to state and federal policies to provide a safe environment for all our students to thrive.

In this newsletter issue, all prior-year data has been collected and analyzed, making it possible to share our impact with all stakeholders invested in our success. In the next page, Jamie Trujillo, our Program Director, highlights this past year's outcomes, impact and changes moving forward.

We are proud to introduce new board members, feature staff and volunteer contributions in our final segment illustrating the great work happening at ABQ-ALC through stories of our recent graduates. Lastly and most importantly, don't miss grantor, partner and individual donors who make our programming possible.

Thank you for supporting ABQ-ALC, Inc.!

OUR MISSION

To create and support thriving adults in a safe and communal environment through student-focused adult education and career services

LOCATIONS

John Marshall Health and Social Services Center
1500 Walter St SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Mesa Verde Community Center
7900 Marquette Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Alamosa Community Center
6900 Gonzales Rd SW
Albuquerque, NM 87121

Associated Builders and Contractors
2821 Broadway Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Dennis Chavez Community Center
715 Kathryn Ave SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Los Duranes Community Center
2920 Leopoldo Rd NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104

Program Highlights

Message from Jamie Trujillo, Program Director

Our new year is up and sprinting! As we have returned to in-person instruction, our amazing staff have welcomed our students with enthusiasm and readiness.



We are also very proud of our year-end numbers for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Despite operating 100% virtually for the entire year, we **served 235 students** as of year-end. While our total numbers served and post-test rates decreased compared to last fiscal year, **overall performance was higher**, particularly with the total measurable skill gain (MSG) rate (34.81%). Additionally, we were able to maintain the **same number of graduates as the previous year (12) despite the digital barriers we faced this year**. Our goal for the upcoming year is to achieve a **42% MSG rate and 25% HSE Completion rate**.

In addition to returning to the classroom, this new year also brings some exciting changes. Our Career Pathways Google Classroom is now available to all students and staff as a supplemental resource.

Also, our onboarding process has been significantly expanded to include 5 weeks of activities, including TABE pre-assessment, 8 hours of digital literacy instruction, and 16 hours of orientation.

This is intended to ensure that incoming students are prepared to complete the minimum of 8 hours necessary per week of instruction once they enroll in a class. Additionally, students will cover more topics during orientation (i.e. time management) that weren't previously covered.

Week 6 of every term will now consist of college/career-focused field trips, career pathways virtual workshops, and "meet and greet" potlucks where new students will meet their instructors and current students.

Finally, we are in the process of developing a comprehensive volunteer tutor training. This will consist of self-paced, online modules, a synchronous training session, and classroom observations. If you are interested in volunteering with our program, please email me at jamie@abqalc.org for more information. Here's to a wonderful year!

(NOTE: This article reflects program data as of June 30, 2021, our most recently completed fiscal year)

Do you have teaching or tutoring skills in **READING, WRITING, MATH, SCIENCE, or SOCIAL STUDIES**? ABQ-ALC seeks volunteer tutors. We offer free in-person and online options throughout the year! Contact Jamie directly at jamie@abqalc.org or call our main number at **505 907-9957**.

ALBUQUERQUE ADULT LEARNING CENTER, INC.

Contact us at:

www.abqalc.org

info@abqalc.org

Matthew@abqalc.org

(505) 907-9957

BOARD
OF
DIRECTOR
ADDITIONS

OUR VISION

FOSTERING AN INDIVIDUAL'S
DESIRE FOR EDUCATION,
OPPORTUNITY, AND
INDEPENDENCE



WELCOME ABOARD!

Meet our new Board members: Ashley, Karime, and Nick!



Ashley Solano joined our board in April 2021; Ashley is a former ABQ-GED 2016 graduate! Immediately following her graduation, Ashley enrolled at CNM where she graduated with three associates degrees and several certificates. Ashley's goal is to become a Certified Public Accountant. She is presently working toward a bachelor's in accounting at UNM in addition to working for Alliance Data as a customer service representative. In her spare time, she serves as a board member representing our student body and has over two years tutoring experience at CNM. Ashley and her family were recently featured in one of the Literacy Project articles published by the Albuquerque Journal.



Karime Andazola joined our board in July 2021. Karime is a professional with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Spanish from The University of New Mexico. She works for Hewlett Packard (HP) and is currently enrolled in the UNM Executive MBA Class of 2023. Karime was forced to leave the country to pursue her permanent residency when she was a junior studying Psychology & Spanish at UNM. Her ability to overcome this adversity has solidified her intent to represent the minority population in the program as a Hispanic woman and in the professional world. Her intent is to educate and arm herself with all the tools and skills to grow into a more effective leader in her organization and community.



Nick Estes is an active volunteer tutor for ABQ-ALC since 2014. Nick is a retired attorney from Public Practice and UNM's General Counsel. In 2000, Nick was awarded the Public Lawyer of the Year Award, in recognition for his dedicated and distinguished service as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Albuquerque's City Attorney Office, and as University Counsel for the University of New Mexico. Nick is also an active board member of Health Action New Mexico, a founding board member of Explora, and an Adjunct member of Explora's board of directors.

Interested in becoming a board member? Would you like to help address literacy and HSE concerns in your community? We have one remaining slot available on our board of directors. Prior board experience is welcomed but not required. Bring your passion and commitment to serve at least one two-year term. Email your letter of interest to gloria at gloria@abqalc.org.



Albuquerque Adult
Learning Center
Address
1500 Walter St. SE #224
Albuquerque, NM
87102
Phone
505-907-9957

Website
www.abqalc.org

THANK YOU



FY 2021-2022 ADULT EDUCATION GRANTORS

- ✚ NM Higher Education Dept, Adult Ed Division: AE Programming
- ✚ Bernalillo County, Social Service Dept: Family Literacy Program
- ✚ Albuquerque Rotary Club, Del Norte Chapter: Distance Learning
- ✚ New concerned citizens this quarter work with local officials to address literacy: Ann DelVecchio, Megan Baldrige, and Teri Pierce.

FY 2021 CONTRIBUTORS

Marty Padilla joined ABQ-ALC's board of directors in July of 2019. As President of the Del Norte Rotary Chapter, Marty is no stranger to volunteering and supporting his community. This past year, when Marty learned that we would be unable to hold our 4th annual "Night Under the Stars" Fundraiser and Silent Auction due to COVID-19 restrictions, he enlisted his team of contributors and helped us come within range of our \$10,000 goal.

- ✚ *Special thanks to Waterstone Mortgage, \$2,000 donated during our final quarter, and*
- ✚ *Marty Padilla & family for their generous donation of \$1,000.*

FY 2022 CONTRIBUTORS

- ✚ CORPORATE DONATION: Thank you to Rotary Foundation, Del Norte Chapter, in support of our Distance Learning Program!
- ✚ INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS: Special thanks to Jo Ann & Richard Schaefer and enrolled student "Omar" for your generous donations, respectively \$500 and \$120, to our G&O fund!

WHY I DONATE

*When I was a child, I loved going to school. Nowadays I know I was lucky, and that many people, including my parents and some excellent early teachers, helped pave the way for me to graduate from college and become a teacher. Fifteen years ago, I was a teacher at SER de New Mexico, when Gloria Rael came to support and stabilize our small GED program. Two organizational changes and many moves later, this exemplary program is still helping adult students pass a significant test and move on successfully with their lives. **I no longer teach at ABQ-ALC, but I'm proud to be a monthly donor for several reasons:***

- *I want every child in Albuquerque to have a parent who can help them with their homework,*
- *I want our city to be filled with people who did not allow leaving high school to stop them from interesting college work, nor from remunerative work, and*
- *I have seen how this small but mighty organization goes to bat for any student who walks through the door.*

My credo: those who can contribute, do contribute, as public funding does not cover all the costs of ABQ-ALC's second-chance education.

This year I will also be supporting ABQ-ALC's virtual "Painting with a Twist" fundraiser where I hope to produce a masterpiece painting! Join me in financially supporting this hard-working organization that gives hope to so many of its students.

Megan Baldrige, Donor



**Congratulations to our
FY 2020-2021
Graduates!**

- Christopher Armijo
- Christian Cambise
- Christy Cearnal
- Anthony Chavkin-Moreno
- Jordan Crites-Shoats
- Yvette Hern
- Amaya Martinez
- Joshua McKeough
- Leticia Maria Ramirez
- Barbara Rivera
- Marian Salazar
- Chris Tena
- Love Najjar



Do you know someone who is ready to prepare for the GED® Test or the Hi-SET Exam?

**DIRECT REFERRALS:
505-907-9957**

**To Register at our website:
www.abqalc.org
Click "ENROLL NOW"**

Congratulations to our Recent Graduates!

Love Najjar



Love is an incredibly dedicated student. She adapted quickly to online learning during COVID and really took advantage of the Essential Education learning program we provide for our students. Love was one of the first students in our Career Pathways pilot class. She used the first module to really think about how education can help her future, which motivated her into action. After making some phone calls to local programs, Love plans on enrolling in a program to train to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). As her teacher, it was a real pleasure to have her in my class and I know she'll reach her goals due to how hard she worked in our program.

Nadia Kader, ABQ-ALC Instructor, Mesa Verde Site

Barb Rivera



One of ABQ-ALC's most recent graduates, Barb Rivera, passed her high-school equivalency tests in July 2021. She was helped by ABQ-ALC teacher Samuel Enka. As she attended his online classes (because of the pandemic, classes were not held in person) she gained confidence in her ability to figure out practice tests. She asked her instructor for more and more practice tests, and he obliged. After learning from online classes and from many practice tests, she jumped at the chance to take the first GED test at CNM, which gave her the confidence to take the full number of GED tests.

Rivera's advice for students who have not yet taken their first test and gained the confidence to know they will be passing those tests: Keep learning from the practice tests. "Don't be discouraged by a weakness on the practice test. Use it to practice for the real test. The real test is just like the practice test." Rivera celebrated receiving high-school equivalency by signing up for a full roster of CNM classes, including Chemistry and Chem Lab, English, pre-Calculus and Public Speaking. She is aiming for work in food manufacturing. In the past, her job prospects were limited by her lack of a high school diploma, but that is no longer the case!

Megan Baldrige, Contributor