

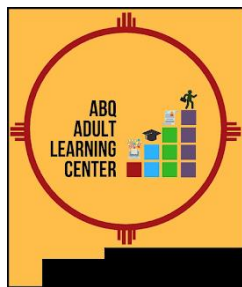
## In this issue...

January 2021

- Letter from the Board Chair
- Message from Executive Director Gloria Rael
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- Perseverance
- Student Success Story



“If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.”



# News and Updates

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

## Message from Carol Kennedy, Board Chair



As I approach my final few months as Board Chair of ABQ-ALC, I can't help but also reflect upon the incredible historic year we have all just witnessed. One word continues to come to mind: collective.

### *Definition of collective:*

*(adj); denoting number of persons or things considered as one group or whole*

We live in our social media, we live in our phones, we live in the news, but we rarely live with each other. *Coming together, better together, helping each other, collaboration is key, it takes a village, all for one, one for all:* words we have all heard, but few truly have embraced – until now. At no other time have we been forced to look at the importance of camaraderie. A simple hug, an unmasked smile, a pat on the back, a kiss on the cheek: we have taken so many things for granted.

We have also seen what happens when we are fragmented, when we feel left out, when we are divisive, and when we are so torn and broken that we are unable to offer each other the simplest gesture of civility and respect.

I have always felt that the true success of our lives is not measured by how much we make or what tangible items we have acquired, but by what we have done to help our fellow humans. That is what we take with us now and when we leave this earth. I call it my humanity checkbook, and I hope to continue writing many more checks throughout my life!

I hope you all will think of ways to lend a hand to someone, consider becoming a tutor to one of our students or a mentor. Your efforts will not only be far-reaching, but you will find yourself transformed for the better in the process – in ways that show our humanity and make us all shine as humans.

*Carol Kennedy, Board Chair*

## LOCATIONS

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**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

**Duran Elementary School**  
2436 Zickert RD. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87104

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### **OUR MISSION**

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

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### **Message from Gloria Rael, Executive Director**



ABQ-ALC expectantly looks to 2021 for new opportunities to cultivate, grow, and contribute. As human beings we are resilient, and together we rise to the challenges presented to continue the work of transforming lives! In this issue you will find many inspiring examples of the opportunities for learning and giving at ABQ-ALC. We hope you enjoy this issue and will be inspired to join us in making a difference in your community!

As of the end of December, we have supported 150 participants, where, with one exception, all entered below 9<sup>th</sup> grade functioning levels. This translates to a significant time investment to help our enrolled students persist toward a High School Equivalency Credential.

Education delivery remains one of the most critical demands on our country today. How will we meet the needs adults and children whose lives have been disrupted during the pandemic? As adult educators, we are here to support students' needs at all educational functioning levels through to the completion of a High School Equivalency Diploma/Credential. This is the "second-chance" that adult education (AE) offers, but it does not stop there. We also offer family literacy and pre-apprenticeship services. For more information, visit us at [www.abqalc.org](http://www.abqalc.org).

Most recently, ABQ-ALC and three other statewide AE programs were recognized nationally as finalists on the Department of Education's, [Rethinking Adult Education Challenge](#) Grant.

As we turn the page on 2020, we invite you to read on as we have many individuals and contributors to thank, including our board of directors, staff tutors/volunteers, donors, grantors, and/or partners who helped us get through a difficult first half of our fiscal year.

With gratitude,

Gloria Rael, Executive Director

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# COVID-19 Update

By Faith Mosely, ABQ-ALC Intake Coordinator

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As the state approaches 180,000 cases of Coronavirus, New Mexicans grapple with the reality of continued social distancing, wearing masks, and online education. All of these are challenging, but for our GED students, learning online can be particularly harrowing. Fifty percent of our students are parents. This means that they are navigating the herculean task of online learning for their children as well as for themselves. For an adult who has put off high school completion for years, suddenly confronting GED learning as well as being an elementary/middle/secondary school teacher at home has pushed them over the edge. Stress levels are at an all-time high, and our students need additional support.

The ABQ Adult Learning Center still has a few Chromebook laptops we can loan to students who desperately need a computer to complete their own studies and assessment tests in preparation for the GED or Hi-Set exam. If you or someone you know has a working computer that you do not use or need, consider donating it to our program. Funds to purchase additional computers are always welcome, and we thank you for your support.

With donated professional coaching sessions from two local professionals and board members, we can begin to address the motivational needs of our students who are under stress but still attempting to increase their employability.

**We thank you in advance for any kind of support you wish to offer our students. ABQ-ALC is committed to advancing our students' abilities to get an education and become self-sufficient New Mexicans.**

Visit our website or click [DONATE](#) now!

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## Keeping You Safe

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Protect yourself and others from getting sick

### Wash your hands

- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after handling animals or animal waste



World Health Organization

ALBUQUERQUE ADULT  
LEARNING CENTER, INC.

Contact us at:

[www.abqalc.org](http://www.abqalc.org)

[info@abqalc.org](mailto:info@abqalc.org)

[faith@abqalc.org](mailto:faith@abqalc.org)

(505) 907-9957



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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Coaching, Tutoring, and More!

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Our newest Board members, Ruth Sandoval and Peggy Garcia-Marquez, have already proven to be very valuable members of our Board. This past quarter, Ruth and Peggy participated in ABQ-ALC's end of term in-house training. They offered their expertise with a live demonstration session where staff gained valuable feedback and direct application with their students.



**Ruth is offering coaching sessions for ABQ-ALC students.**

Ruth is a professional life coach and coach trainer. She has a master's degree in Organization, Information, and Learning Sciences from the University of New Mexico. She specializes in life coaching with a history of academic coaching. With this addition, students will more often persist towards educational goals. Students may be coached on a variety of goals, either academic or any personal challenges that can become barriers toward their educational path. Student coaching sessions are now offered on Mondays 4-7 PM.



**Peggy is offering coaching for teachers;** Peggy specializes in coaching for teachers, management, and coach training.

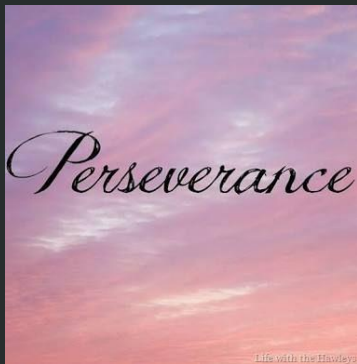
The benefit of coaching for teachers is to teach a coach approach to teaching and to manage the many challenges of teaching. Peggy has built a career working in higher education. She has coached students to success as an achievement coach and joined the Adult Education Center at the University of New Mexico Valencia as a career coach. She also engaged her entrepreneurial spirit to pursue a passion for promoting economic social justice as a board-certified life coach, consultant, speaker, instructional designer, and trainer.

We extend a special thanks to our coaches, Peggy & Ruth.

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*If you are interested in becoming a board member or volunteer, contact [faith@abqalc.org](mailto:faith@abqalc.org) or call (505) 907-9957.*

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## Albuquerque Adult Learning Center

Address:

1500 Walter St. SE #224  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Phone:

505-907-9957

Website:

[www.abqalc.org](http://www.abqalc.org)

Persistence + Persistence + Persistence + Persistence  
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**= SUCCESS**

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# Perseverance

By Robin Treaster, Vice Chair of ABQ-ALC Board

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This past year has been challenging for all of us. Late in 2019, prior to the pandemic, I decided to pursue my master's degree. After looking at several colleges, I enrolled in Colorado State University-Global to follow the organizational leadership executive path. Then the pandemic hit and isolated us.

This journey introduced me to 14 talented, caring, and passionate individuals traveling on the same path. Our cohort shared and learned from our experiences, including setbacks and successes. Through this group's encouraging feedback, I grew and gained the confidence needed to be an effective leader.

In November 2020, I earned my Master of Science degree. Completing this intense, accelerated program humbled and inspired me to listen and to be collaborative, innovative, and compassionate. The program emphasized learning how to give, rather than take, by completing 80 hours of community service. Learning what and how to meet others' needs in an underserved community has humbled and motivated me to act and involve others to make a difference in our community.

I have learned more from my failures during this program than my successes. Applying my professor's constructive feedback improved my skills and abilities and taught me to become a better and resilient executive leader. I am looking forward to applying this knowledge toward promoting and fundraising for ABQ-ALC.

Accomplishments can be measured in many ways. Having love and support from friends and family, staying safe during a world pandemic, and completing a Master of Science degree are a few of them. More important are the friendships and partnerships developed with my cohort of fellow learners and volunteers that are passionate about sharing their talents and resources to help others.

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*Robin Treaster, MS, PHR, SHRM-CP, ASQ-CQIA is the Director of Member Services at the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, a large not-for-profit association of medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals.*

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## Student Success Story

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By Jamie Trujillo

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Christopher Armijo came to our program in July of 2020. Despite entering right in the midst of stay-at-home orders, Christopher began taking the Core Class with our Integrated Education and Training (IET) partner, the Associated Builders and Contractors New Mexico Chapter (ABCNM). While attending the Core Class, Christopher also completed some high school equivalency preparation independently online.

Christopher was quickly ready to take the official HiSET practice tests, which he passed in August of 2020. Albuquerque Adult Learning Center provided Christopher with a voucher that paid for his official HiSET tests. He also received assistance scheduling his tests. Due to lack of in-person and online testing availability at the time, Christopher had to drive to Santa Fe to take the HiSET, which he did over the course of two days.

On August 12, 2020, Christopher passed his final test subject. Not only did Christopher pass all four subjects, but he also passed with college-ready scores in every subject! Christopher just completed his first semester as an electrical apprentice. He is still working for Klinger Constructors, LLC and has just received his second raise with the company. Once he completes his electrical apprenticeship, Christopher plans to remain with Klinger, where he plans for upward mobility to management. Christopher is an incredibly motivated and hardworking individual, and he is extremely grateful for the support he received from our program.

The future is bright for Christopher and so many of our students!

**Congratulations, Christopher!**

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A special thanks to our tutors this quarter: **Nick Estes, Don Gallup, and Marshall Mourar.** *If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact [jamie@abqalc.org](mailto:jamie@abqalc.org).*



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**Congratulations, Graduates!**

CHRISTOPHER ARMIJO  
CHRISTY CEARNAL  
ANTHONY CHAVKIN-MORENO  
JOSHUA MCKEOUGH



#2297083

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Is someone you know ready to take the next step to pass the GED® or HiSet exam and get their High School Equivalency?

**Refer them to ABQ-ALC!**  
**505-907-9957**

Register at:  
[www.abqalc.org](http://www.abqalc.org)

**Click "ENROLL NOW"**

THANK YOU



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## SPECIAL THANKS & WAYS TO PAY IT FORWARD IN 2021

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### GRANTORS DIRECTLY SUPPORTING OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

New Mexico Higher Education Department, Adult Education Division; Bernalillo County; Nusenda Credit Union, Sandia National Labs; Small Business Administration, and [Rotary Club of Del Norte](#), which provided direct beneficiary support to five homeless students, four of whom have returned to our program! ([Samantha's Journey](#))

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: **Carol Kennedy, Chair; Robin Treaster, Vice Chair; Steve Turpen, Treasurer; Ana Ambriz-Quijano, Secretary**  
MEMBERS: **Don Gallup, Marty Padilla, Peggie Marquez-Garcia, Ruth Sandoval.** *If you are interested in serving on our board, contact [gloria@abqalc.org](mailto:gloria@abqalc.org)*

Carol Kennedy joined our board of directors in July 2019, and how time flies! **Carol has taught ABQ-ALC the importance of diversification.** As we continue to push past COVID-19, we are now well on our way to rolling out new strategic and marketing plans for our 2021 Fundraising Campaign. We are recruiting new [board members](#) interested in joining our team! Below are several ways you can contribute toward our mission of supporting thriving lives and lifelong learning.

### PAYING IT FORWARD made easy! It all add\$ up...

*Select any of the following links to donate to in support of our programs:*

- [ABQ-ALC's \\$10,000 fundraising goal](#)
- [Janice Pecos Scholarship Fund: Janice Pecos Memoriam](#)
- [Donate an unused car/truck/bus...you get the point!](#)
- Remembering someone special on [Valentine's](#) or for any special occasion? People's Flowers' [Helping Hands Rewards Program](#) pays 5% of your purchase forward to our organization! We received **\$25+ last quarter!**
- **Buying groceries?** Select ABQ-ALC through Smith's Rewards Program! Just give the code GE180 at checkout. We received **\$40+ last quarter!**

