

In this issue...

March 30, 2020

- Letter from the Board Chair
- A Story of Resilience
- GED: The Back Story
- Help ABQ/ALC!
- Keeping You Safe!



News and Updates

Bringing stories, news and pertinent information to ABQ/ALC students, parents, and stakeholders!

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and directives from local and state officials, all new student registrations are canceled through April 5th. Registrations will resume on Monday, April 6th. All current ABQ-ALC classes will be held 100% online. Current enrolled students should contact your instructors for further information.

A Message from the Board Chair, Carol Kennedy



We have all been listening to the news and hearing stories that are, frankly, difficult to hear. Yes, these are unprecedented times, no doubt; however, lest we forget the resiliency of the human spirit. This is a time when we can all rise to the occasion and become better for it.

Now is the time to focus on what positive changes we can make under these circumstances. How can I help my fellow human beings? What can I do each day to ease the pain of someone in need?

I recently lost my sister. It was painful and, although she had been ill for many years, the loss was still tough to take. And shortly, thereafter, coronavirus happened. Suddenly, we were packing our bags and going home, saying goodbye to coworkers for, well, who knows how long. Struggling with the day to day issues of suddenly being at home, I realized that I had totally forgot I was also in mourning. So, last night, I sat down and had a good cry, remembering my beloved sibling. A difficult, yet important process – Focus. What we focus on becomes our reality - and then I turned back to dealing with the quarantine.

I implore all of you who have taken an important step in furthering your education and lifelong dreams to continue to stay focused. Don't focus too much on the news. Don't focus too much on the horrible stories we hear each day. Remember to take a break, remember the good and that humans, throughout history have overcome challenges, which, at the time, seemed insurmountable and we, together, will get through this – together.

Carol Kennedy, Board Chair

“I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it.” - Maya Angelou

Keeping you safe!

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



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

OUR MISSION

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

A Story of Resilience...

Anthony Macias (2013 GED recipient) is a survivor. After being involved in a car accident in 2005, he was left with severe nerve damage throughout his entire body. After multiple surgeries and a will to go on, he began working at Kmart in 2009 until the store closed. Knowing that he had to better himself despite recurring pain, Anthony decided to complete his high school education.

Originally, a Del Norte High student, Anthony's family moved. His plan was to attend Highland, since he now lived in that district, but as often happens with plans, they fizzled as life became chaotic and priorities shifted.

In 2013, Anthony found the ABQ Adult Learning Center, then known as ABQ GED, at the Trumbull Family Center on Pennsylvania Avenue. He committed himself to a rigorous schedule, attending as much as he could as often as possible. "Everything completely worked," he said. "Everyone in class shared their story, and that was really helpful. It made me feel like I wasn't the only one in a tough situation." Within four months, his test assessments showed that he was ready. He took and passed the GED test! Shortly after receiving his passing scores, he signed up with CNM and began his community college studies. The complexity of life took over again, and Anthony found himself needing to drop out of CNM.

Fast forward to 2020, and Anthony has created new plans despite chronic pain. He intends to return to CNM and complete a degree in Business Management with the goal of owning and operating his own catering company. "I love to cook!"

Having already completed an orientation at DVR (Department of Vocational Rehabilitation) and obtained a Food Handlers license, Anthony is back on track to realize his dreams. ABQ Adult Learning Center is proud to be a part of Anthony's healing process, and without the support of our generous donors, we would not be able to offer no-cost GED preparation for those most in need. Thank you, donors, and to Anthony, we wish you the very best.

Albuquerque Adult
Learning Center

Address:
1500 Walter St. SE #224
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Phone:
505-907-9957

Web: abqalc.org

[HELP ABQ/ALC](#)

We need you now more than
ever! Please consider
donating to help ABQ/ALC
continue to provide services to
our community by donating
today! No amount is too great
or too small!

PLEASE VISIT:
[www.abqalc.org/donate-
now](http://www.abqalc.org/donate-now)

GED: The Back Story...

On December 7, 1941 the United States officially entered WWII after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Soldiers were needed immediately, so many young people left high school without graduating to join the battles raging overseas. A year later, the US Armed Forces birthed the US Armed Forces Institute, an educational organization tasked with creating a high school equivalency exam so that these young war veterans would have a chance at obtaining a diploma.

This new educational arm of the military joined forces with the American Council on Education (founded in 1918) to create a battery of tests to measure high school level skills. The General Educational Development test, or GED as it is commonly referred to, is a registered trademark of the American Council on Education. Passing the GED let the world know that the recipient of this alternative diploma displayed the same level of educational skills as a conventional high school graduate. By 1972 the armed forces required some form of high school diploma or GED to enter its ranks.

Though the modern day military of 2020 only allows a small percentage of enlistees to enter with a GED (tier two if an enlistee holds only a GED, but that enlistee can become tier one if s/he attains 15 college credits prior to enlisting), most civilian employers treat the GED the same as a traditional high school diploma. As many conventional schools have proved unable to meet the needs of a more discerning public, more and more individuals choose alternative educational paths like the attainment of the GED or the Hi-Set (high school equivalency test) to enter employment or post-secondary education.

Though the original GED test went through four revisions beginning in 1978 and lastly in 2014, its acquisition by London-based Pearson Vue (Virtual University Enterprises) in 2011 made it cost prohibitive for some. The electronic testing service immediately raised the cost of the test and then revamped it into an online only test. For those testers who were not tech savvy or just uncomfortable on a computer, they had to adapt or seek another option. The state of New Mexico along with about 15 others allows testers to choose between the GED test and the newer Hi-Set developed by Educational Testing Services, the same people who created the SAT.
