

## In this issue...

October, 2020

- Message from Board Chair, Carol Kennedy
- Message from Executive Director, Gloria Rael
- Remembering Janice Pecos
- ABQ-ALC students and the impact of Covid-19
- Farewell to Allen Camp



# News and Updates

Stories, news and information for ABQ-ALC students, parents, and stakeholders!

## Message from Board Chair Carol Kennedy



My sincere hope is that this message finds you all safe and healthy. The ABQ-ALC Board of Trustees continues to work diligently, conducting board business via zoom and telephone. While not ideal, we remain focused on the bigger picture and continue to keep our eye on the prize; to foster an individual's desire for education, opportunity, and independence.

My top three priorities when I took the position of Board Chair were to:

1. Attract new board talent and diversify our board,
2. Increase brand name exposure of ABQ-ALC to the community, and
3. Increase and diversify our funding portfolio.

I am happy to say we are making progress in all three realms. We recently brought on two new board members, have started to increase our presence in the community and continue the good work to diversify and expand our funding portfolio. One key element of that diversification is to increase individual giving. We are making great strides in this area and we hope that you will help us continue this important work that helps sustain our organization by making a donation (time, talent, treasure are all appreciated!).

These are challenging times for all. Check on your neighbor, your friend, lend a hand to someone in need. Most importantly, be kind to yourself and tend to your well-being. And remember:

***“A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.”***

— Christopher Reeve

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## ABQ-ALC 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 (ABC NM)**  
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.*



### Message from Gloria Rael, Executive Director

Albuquerque Adult Learning Center, Inc. (ABQ-ALC) is one of 25 Adult Education (AE) Programs in the state, and like many other nonprofits, our organization has greatly been impacted by the pandemic. We are fortunate to have an incredible team of dedicated and passionate professionals

assisting our students to transition to online Distance Education services. The resilience of our students is remarkable and inspiring!

**According to the U.S. Department of Education, 54% of U.S. adults 16-74 years old - about 130 million people - lack proficiency in literacy, reading below the equivalent of a sixth-grade level.**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelnietzel/2020/09/09/low-literacy-levels-among-us-adults-could-be-costing-the-economy-22-trillion-a-year/#2f1cd45d4c90>.

Based on New Mexico Adult Education's 2019-2020 [Fact Sheet](#), 25 AE Programs served 9,520 individuals statewide last year with less than 5% of the need met at current state funding levels. **Adult Education IS EFFECTIVE and one of the most ACCOUNTABLE PROGRAMS with a 371% Return on Investment (ROI).**

ABQ-ALC works tirelessly to serve its community by assisting over 200 students each year to advance their skills toward a High School Equivalency (HSE) Credential and obtain Career Pathway services to upskill for much needed jobs. Last year, 62% of students served attained 12+ hours despite COVID-19.

***Our challenges are greater than ever before as 99% of those entering our programs last year assessed below 9th grade educational functioning levels. Improving educational outcomes addresses poverty in New Mexico and children are more likely to succeed in school, if their parents can read to them.***

- We are asking you to invest in the people of Bernalillo County where over 63,800, (18+ year old individuals), need a high school diploma.
- Statistics show that ADULTS with a HSE Diploma on average earn \$10,000 more per year.

In the next page of this issue, we honor the memory of Janice Pecos with the introduction of the "Janice Pecos Scholarship Fund" in support of graduates transitioning to college and/or employment. I invite you to invest in New Mexico's most valuable asset, its people. Now more than ever, we need your support.

VISIT JANICE PECOS  
MEMORIAL HERE:

<https://www.abqalc.org/our-program/our-staff/in-memorial>

Coming Soon: You will have an opportunity to leave a memory or message directly on the website.

To send your memory now, email [gloria@abqalc.org](mailto:gloria@abqalc.org)

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## *In Memory of JANICE PECOS*

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Janice Pecos came from the Pueblos of Cochiti and Ohkay Owingeh. She was reared in Cochiti Pueblo where she learned the ways of the Pueblo People. Her first and best teachers were family. They taught her the importance of love, trust, and integrity, three attributes she carried with her day to day. Growing up in a large extended family in Cochiti Pueblo surrounded by cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents had a profound effect on Janice.

Janice attended Bernalillo Public Schools beginning in kindergarten through twelfth grade where she received a diploma from Bernalillo High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from the University of New Mexico and taught elementary students for almost twenty-five years.

Janice came to ABQ-ALC in 2014 where she was given the opportunity to continue her teaching career. During her tenure with ABQ-ALC, she served over 450 students. Janice loved teaching and felt providing Adult Basic Education (ABE) and High School Equivalency (HSE) services allowed her to connect with students on a personal level. This connection helped her understand each student's learning style and provide individualized support as needed. She believed each person has unlimited potential to be successful. ***"We have lost a dear person who had a special talent for empowering marginalized individuals"*** Frances Bannowsky, NMHED Adult Ed State Director



**With the blessing of her family, ABQ-ALC is proud to announce:  
The "Janice Pecos Memorial Fund"**



**Make your contribution via Paypal by clicking the down arrow and selecting the  
"Janice Pecos Scholarship Fund"**

**Donate to the Janice  
Pecos Scholarship Fund**



## Albuquerque Adult Learning Center

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

Phone: 505-907-9957

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

### HELP ABQ-ALC

We need you now more than ever! Students working remotely need access to WiFi, and we need laptops!

Please 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)

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## ABQ-ALC students; the impact of Covid-19

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Yesterday, New Mexico health officials reported over 723 new cases of the novel coronavirus (note: stats are at the time of this writing). Overall, the state has 42,586 confirmed cases and the statewide death toll is now 976, with 20,332 people in New Mexico recovered from the disease.

Surviving the virus largely means staying at home. But surviving staying at home requires another set of skills. It requires money, patience, the ability to learn and/or teach one's child(ren), the ability to endure being alone, to name a few.

A Student Follow-Up Survey was completed by several current ABQ ALC students. In the survey, we wanted to find out what the students were going through and how we could support them during this unprecedented time in US history. One middle-aged student who recently relocated to Albuquerque after several years away had this to say: "I have good days and bad days. I am only one test away from passing the GED. I have experience but not the one requirement needed for most employment." With testing centers currently closed, it is frustrating for students who have been preparing for months to have to sit patiently and wait for the opportunity to take and pass their high school equivalency test. This same student said that she takes care of herself by walking, eating healthy, and staying prepared by utilizing the online Khan Academy program. "Keeping a routine," she said helps keep her on track. Another student said she spends her days hiking and fishing with her son.

ABC-ALC's Student Support Specialist, Al Gelburd, offered a few resources:

1. Alleviate anxiety: there is no shame in whatever you are feeling. Meditate, rest, do self-care. A good article with some suggestions: <https://www.healthline.com/health/9-resources-for-coping-with-coronavirus-anxiety#7.-Do-a-guided-meditation-that-makes-you-laugh>.
2. Food/housing/utility resources: ABQ Mutual Aid offers free care packages delivered to your door of food and hygiene. You can request a package here <http://www.ffol.org/mutualaid.html> and have access to their resource page with tons of great links and information. There is also a list of resources that the city provides: <https://www.cabq.gov/coronavirus-information/community-resources-during-covid#food-assistance>. If you are enrolled in EBT, farmer's market's offer a program called double up food bucks: <http://www.doubleupnm.org/>. Curbside pickup available for orders made in advance
3. Stay at home activities: cook, make art, read, enjoy nature, sleep, play games, take naps, give yourself permission to do nothing for as long as you need. Thousands of audiobooks and ebooks are available with a library card on apps such as Libby, Hoopla and Overdrive
4. Stress related home/relationship: NM Crisis and Access Line: 855-662-7474. Counselors are available 24/7 for free.

Though the state is slowly loosening restrictions, cases continue to rise in the United States and the State of New Mexico. It is extremely important to continue to wear a mask when you go out in public, to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, and maintain the advised social distance of six feet or more when you mix with the public or anyone who does not live in your home. Stay safe. We are all in this together.

*Faith Mosley, Intake Coordinator*

# Albuquerque Adult Learning Center

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol Kennedy – Board Chair

Robin Treaster – Vice Chair

Ana Ambriz-Quijano – Secretary

Steve Turpen – Treasurer

Don Gallup – Member

Marty Padilla – Member

Peggy Garcia-Marquez – Member

Ruth Sandoval – Member

<https://www.abqalc.org/our-program/our-board-of-directors>

## Board Announcements

### FAREWELL TO ALLEN CAMP

On behalf of ABQ-ALC, we would like to thank Allen Camp for his friendship and wise advice over the past five years. Allen, a retired Physicist with Sandia National Labs, joined our board in 2015. Before joining our Board of Directors, Allen dedicated many hours tutoring students in the classroom. He wanted to learn firsthand what our students needed most.

Allen has a special ability to listen and motivate students. He has been an invaluable Board member holding several key board positions including Immediate Past Chair, Secretary, and Fundraising Chair. Now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, Allen helped us start our first fundraiser and silent auction. His contributions to ABQ-ALC are immeasurable and greatly appreciated. We wish Allen the very best!



### WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS:



Peggy Garcia-Marquez holds a Master of Arts in Organizational Learning and Instructional Technology from the University of New Mexico. The granddaughter of migrant farm workers and a first-generation high school graduate, her career in community college teaching and administration was inspired by her own struggles in navigating the higher education system.



Ruth Sandoval is a board-certified life coach, certified to facilitate strength-based trainings. Certifications include assessments, teaching, and training the print assessment and model. She is also a Strengths-Quest Educator and Instructional Systems Designer. Ruth offers strengths assessments and tailors training to meet the needs of your staff and organization.