

# Region IX Education Cooperative

An educational service agency committed to providing a continuum of comprehensive education-related services to children, families, schools and communities with the purpose of supporting successful student outcomes

## Newsletter • August 2008

### Welcome Back

#### Message from the director:

Welcome Back! As we prepare to enter into the 2008-2009 school year, I would like to share a couple of thoughts:

1. **An educational service agency committed to providing a continuum of comprehensive education-related services to children, families, schools and communities with the purpose of supporting successful student outcomes.** REC IX has a revitalized mission statement. The REC IX Leadership Team has revised the existing mission statement to align the purpose of our agency in supporting our students, families, schools and communities with emphasis placed on the end result of supporting successful student outcomes. When we think about the work we do, the attitudes we embody, and the focus of our efforts, the missions statement reflects that critical support we provide to our districts in achieving successful student outcomes. I am excited about the potential for REC IX. In fact, when we think about the incredible resource REC IX staff and services provide for our schools, students and families, I think we could define REC IX as "The Place of Potential!"

2. Senate Memorial 41 (SM41): The work continues to move forward with SM41, which is outlining the roles, responsibilities and fiscal needs for Regional Education Cooperatives (RECs). The legislatively sanctioned work group has outlined core services, accountability and financial requirements and needs for RECs. The group is charged with providing a written report with recommendations to the Legislative Education Study Committee by September. We are optimistic that the recommendations will lead to more stable roles and financial support for us. More information to be shared at the "All Staff Orientation" on August 19th.

3. **Everyone is a Leader to Someone.** As we begin a new school year, I challenge each of us to think about this statement: "Everyone is a leader to someone." Who is the "someone" we lead? Staff we supervise? Students we teach? Students/staff/families we train? Children? Teachers we support? Co-workers? Families? Communities? Think about how you will lead that "someone" who depends on you to reach their outcomes. Set high standards to support the work we do in our schools with the respect, positivism, and solid work. Each person in REC IX brings strong professional knowledge and skills to their position, but the work is not just about meeting the job description. The work is also about leading and supporting, no matter the job title. Your "someone" is counting on you! Let's commit to being there for our "someone."

## Upcoming Events:

<b>August 6th:</b> Effective Evaluation/Supervision Practices, REC IX, 9:00-3:00	<b>August 13th:</b> REC IX Leadership Team Meeting, REC IX, 1:30-3:30	<b>August 18th:</b> New Staff Orientation, REC IX, 1:00-4:00
<b>August 19th:</b> All Staff Orientation REC IX, 8:00-3:00	<b>August 22nd:</b> Related Service Staff Orientation, REC IX, 9:00-2:30	<b>August 28th-29th:</b> REC IX, New IEP Program Training, 9:00-12:00
<b>October 17th:</b> REC IX Autism Evaluation training, REC IX, 8:00-4:00		

## What's happening at Region IX:

**CAREER: Career Technology Student Organizations (CTSO)** CTLP state advisors, Christine Phipps and Saundra Castillo, continue to attend national conferences and meetings. REC IX will be hiring one more state advisor for the CTSOs and one for the High Schools That Work Program. Christine Phipps and Gary Cozzens attended a planning retreat with the Career-Technical and Workforce Education Bureau staff meeting in Santa Fe during July. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program was awarded another contract for three years beginning on July 1st. Gina Corliss and Dee Swope continue to provide services to students in Lincoln and Otero Counties. Carl Perkins received carry-over funding to send a team to High School Redesign training in June and August. The Carl Perkins regular grant was funded for 2008-09.

**SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES:** It's back to school time! The Region IX Education Cooperative School Based Health Services staff is looking forward to another exciting year. As always, the School Based Health Center at Ruidoso High School will be the focus of physical health services, but the staff will be offering behavioral health, substance abuse, and prevention/education services to all of the Region IX districts. Planning for projects has been underway since last spring, collaboratively with principals, counselors, nurses, and teachers in the schools, and a menu of services to choose from is available. Returning staff include: Celeste Bonds, Health Services Director; Kelli Shaw, Substance Abuse Coordinator; Melissa Gebhart, Preventionist/Health Educator; Paula Reynolds, Counselor; Marissa Telles, Medical Assistant; Kaaran Mahan, Physicians Assistant; Richard Barendsen, MD, Psychiatrist; and Dr. Avi Kreichman, MD, Psychiatrist.

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:** The staff from Educational Services is ready to hit the ground running! Everyone is looking forward to providing district support through professional development in the areas of literacy, numeracy, crisis prevention, autism, and differentiated instruction while maintaining focus on districts Educational Plan for Student Success. Preparations are under way to provide feedback from the spring, developmental screenings to districts as well as preparations for the implementation of the secondary screening tool for preschool age children, the Developmental Indicators for Assessment of Learning-Third Edition (DIAL-3). For select preschool age children, the DIAL-3 will serve as an additional component to the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), implemented as the universal screening tool for REC IX member districts in the fall of 2007. Look for training for preschool staff in the fall!

**FISCAL:** The Fiscal Team has been hard at work during the summer months. The fiscal year for REC IX ends June 30th, so the team has worked diligently to close out all accounts as well as input all budget information for the 08-09 school year, which began July 1st. This year, all budget reporting will go through the state's "Operating Budget Management System" or OBMS. The online budget system should facilitate approval of budgets, budget adjustments and reimbursements in a timelier manner. The Fiscal Team is also proud to welcome Donna Shelley to the team. Donna is not new to REC IX, but is "new" to the REC IX office. Donna supports the Career Technical Student Organizations and was previously housed out of Portales. Donna will continue in her current duties as well as provide additional support for REC IX fiscal operations. Welcome Donna!

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** ITV promises to provide new avenues of communication between REC IX and member school districts. Remember this resource is available for use, and is a great alternative with higher fuel costs to support programs and lead the people you support. New Region IX email is in place; look for ongoing and continuous staff development to help get you up to speed on all the new features. To access your new email, visit [recixnm.org](mailto:recixnm.org) and click the "New WebMail" link, your username is [first.last@regionix.org](mailto:first.last@regionix.org). You should have a password already, if not please contact Tim Lewis or Bryan Dooley if you have misplaced yours.

**HEAD START:** Head Start is prepared to provide a jump start to literacy proficiency for young children. Beginning this school year, Head Start staff will implement an evidence-based early literacy program, which will strengthen and support early reading skills for preschool children. The reading program will enhance the quality early childhood instruction for which Lincoln County Head Start is noted through the provision of standardized and explicit instruction in essential early reading skills. The curriculum will strongly align with and support young learners as they transition into formal reading instruction in kindergarten and first grade and will support districts in achieving high levels of proficiency in the area of reading. Head Start teachers will be participating in ongoing professional development throughout the year. Stay tuned for continued updates on this exciting program.

**DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES:** Developmental Services is one of the REC IX programs that operate year-round. Staff provides services to families and infants/toddlers on a twelve month basis in accordance with the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). Services are determined through a formal IFSP meeting and include ongoing supports to both infants/toddlers and families. Developmental Services staff also work closely with families as children transition from the early intervention program into school-age programs for three year-olds. Staff meets 90-days prior to the child's third birthday with school district staff and families to plan for the transition from the birth-three year old program to school-age program. This transition time is critical in providing continuity in services for children and provides critical information to the districts to ensure effective programming.

**Welcome New Employees/Contractors:** Bonnie Bourland, School Nurse (Carrizozo, Corona, Hondo) • Heather Talley, CTLP Secretary; Gretchen Becker, SLP/Sped Coordinator; Weslyn Browning, CTSO Coordinator; Elizabeth Keller, Education Coordinator

**Good-Bye and Good Luck:** Tommie Turner, Speech/Language Pathologist • Karen Ginsberg, School Nurse • Kayce Patterson, Regional Reading First Specialist • Sandra Olafson, Capitan Head Start Teacher.... Everyone at Region IX appreciates the work you've done and wish you well in your future endeavors.

**Upcoming birthdays:** Sylvia Velasco-Saiz 1st • Fred Romero 9th • Kelli Shaw 23rd • Holly Dooley 25th

## **Orientation information:**

- 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Breakfast - served on tables in front of office, general seating
- 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. General session
- 9:50 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. Breakout session 1
- 10:25 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. Breakout session 2
- 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Breakout session 3
- 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Lunch on your own
- 12:50 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. Breakout session 4
- 1:25 p.m. to 1:55 p.m. Breakout session 5
- 2:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. Wrap Up Conference Room
- 2:55 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Benefits vendor presentations for those interested

## **Quote of the month:**

**Starting right now, work on adopting the mind set that you're a huge stake holder in the success of your organization.**

**Fact is, you really are one.**

**-- Steve Ventura --**

## REC IX Leadership Team:

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