

**Special points of interest:**

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## News from Executive Director, Cathe North

Welcome back to all of you! I hope you were able to find some time for rest, relaxation, reflection, and rejuvenation.

2006-2007 is going to be a pivotal year for both the SWREC and its member districts. This year the RECs are requesting legislative funding support. We are presenting to the LESC on September 14 in Socorro. State legislative funding will provide an operating base not dependent upon lagging reimbursement and will allow us to enhance the services we provide our districts. I hope that if you talk with any of your local legislators you will support us.

We have contracts with two technology entities, Decision Tree Technologies and Desert Communications, Inc. You can piggyback on these contracts and avoid going out for bid when purchasing hardware, software or technology support. You can contact Decision Tree Technologies at 915-584-3419 and ask for Wendell. At Desert Communications, Inc. your contact is Pete Garcia at 915-584-1287. Just tell them you are part of the SWREC contract.

## News from our Business Office:

We have Visions up and running in our business office. Thanks to all of our districts for supporting this purchase. Although the new fiscal year is here, PED has not yet released funding to SWREC. We are hoping to have budget authority for all projects soon. The business office will process all PO requests as soon as we receive authority.

Just a quick reminder of the schedule of monthly activities in our business office:

**Accounts Payable:** 1<sup>st</sup> three Wednesdays of each month (Checks will not be run the last week of each month.)

**Budget Reports/Check Registers:** available at our website

**Purchase Orders:** done weekly. Pink copies are mailed back to the district for order check in and need to be returned to this office for verification that orders were received. Beginning in September this can be done via the Internet as DAC is set with Visions.

I will work very hard to maintain this schedule, but remember there may be times I am out of the office at trainings or visiting districts. Call me at any time if you have any questions/concerns.



## IDEA Update:

The State Improvement Grant NM has been using to fund the three state-wide initiatives: Least Restrictive Environment, Positive Behavior Supports, and Transition, has ended. NM has applied for the new State Professional Development Improvement Grant, but has not yet received word regarding funding for this grant. This coupled with the not yet released 2004 reauthorization regulations leaves more questions than answers in our state. Word is that regulations will be released in August and that NM will try and continue to support the three initiatives on a limited basis with discretionary funding. However, until NM receives more state improvement funding, there will be no sliver grant monies available to districts. Hopefully, the first tri-annual meeting sponsored by the Special Education Bureau will provide more direction to districts. We will certainly keep you posted as we receive guidance/information from PED.

If you have any news, programs, or just want to brag about something that is happening in your district, please submit to Connie at [clcopeland@swrecnm.org](mailto:clcopeland@swrecnm.org) to be included in our next newsletter!

### SWREC

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## Upcoming Events:

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|--|--------------|
| • 2006 Gifted Summer Institute (Alb)       | August 2-4   |
| • Special Education Tri-annual (Santa Fe)  | August 10-11 |
| • SWREC Council Meeting                    | August 23    |
| • Special Education Director Meeting (Alb) | Sept. 7-8    |
| • District Visits                          | Sept. 18-21  |
| • ASBO Conference (Taos)                   | Sept. 27-29  |

**For more details about locations and times, please check the calendar at the SWREC web page.**



## Medicaid Update:

One of the many services SWREC provides to our participating schools is extra funding for the schools' nursing needs. These funds come to us by way of New Mexico Medicaid reimbursements for direct therapy service billing and administrative time studies. Part of our success is due to getting as many children signed up for the Medicaid program as possible. We encourage all children to apply.

To make the program run efficiently all providers are encouraged to turn in service logs by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. IEP Medicaid consent forms should include the student's social security number and their doctor's name. Providers also need their updated license on file at the REC.

SWREC Council Members:	
Jim Nesbitt, President	T or C
Dane Kennon, Vice President	Hatch
Jim Barentine	Lordsburg
Jerry Birdwell	Animas
Loren R. Cushman	Reserve
Harvielee Moore	Deming

# WELCOME

We would like to officially welcome **Loren R Cushman**, the new Superintendent in Reserve and **Linda Hale**, the new Director of Curriculum and Instruction in Hatch. We look forward to working with both of you! Welcome aboard.

We would also like to welcome SWREC new WIA data clerk, **Shelly Trujillo**. Hers will be the friendly voice you hear when you call us!

**Congratulations, T or C Elementary & Sierra Elementary in T or C, and R. V. Traylor in Lordsburg!** These schools were recognized as a Model School Site by the NM Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Leadership Team. They have been particularly successful in defining positive behavioral expectations, teaching behavioral expectations, rewarding appropriate behavior and responding to behavior violations. Selection criteria was based on cumulative self-assessment data, which monitors implementation of effective school-wide practices, review of school behavior data, interviews with administration and recommendation by the statewide PBS Coordination Team. **Way to go!!**



## WIA Update:

The Youth One Stop Shop (YOSS) helps eligible youth in Sierra County prepare for and find employment. Funds for this program are provided by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and flow through the Southwest Area Workforce Development Board and are administered by the Southwest Council of Governments. The Southwest Regional Education Center applies for these funds on an annual basis.

The YOSS is not just an employment agency for underprivileged youth. Improving literacy skills, developing employability skills, exploring different careers and educational opportunities, and gaining work experience are all required components of the program. In addition, collaboration between the participants, parents/guardians, employers, and case managers is critical to the success of the program. We also refer our participants to various social service agencies if necessary.

To participate in the program an individual must be between the ages of 14-21, meet income requirements, and meet at least one of the following barriers to employment:

1. School dropout (individual is no longer attending any school and has not received a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent)
2. Basic skills deficient (individuals with English, writing, or computing skills at or below the 8th grade level on a generally accepted standardized test)
3. Foster child
4. Pregnant or parenting
5. Individual with disabilities, including learning disabilities
6. Homeless or runaway youth
7. Offender

Since the inception of the program, the YOSS has helped over 300 youth in Sierra County. The major component of our program is providing our participants with a paid work experience. Participants are placed with a business partner and we pay salaries for up to 20 hours per week. This provides work experience for our participants and valuable assistance to our business partners. Many of our participants eventually become employees of these business partners. We currently have over 60 business partners.

Our current budget is \$250,000, which is a reduction of \$60,000 from the previous year. We are anticipating another budget reduction this year.

### **SWREC Staff:**

Cathe North, Executive Director

Geralyn Bennett, Business Manager

Shelly Trujillo, WIA Data Clerk

Casey Andrews-Hedge, Medicaid Data Clerk

Connie Longley Copeland, Director of Special Programs

Bruce Hegwer, Contracted WIA grant facilitator and data analyst

Douglas Copeland, Contracted Webmaster

Betty Pierce, Contracted WIA Case Manager