



Special Interests this Issue:

- News from Executive Director
- News from Business Office
- Medicaid update
- Borderlands Writing Project
- WIA Update
- IDEA state initiatives

News from Executive Director, Cathe North

- On January 5th I had my 1-year anniversary with the SWREC. It's a pleasure working with all of you and the amazing SWREC staff.
- Newsletter - This is our first newsletter of the 04-05 school year. Please feel free to copy it and distribute or e-mail it to whomever you feel would be interested. We hope to have another one in the spring and commence with quarterly newsletters in the fall. Connie Copeland is our very able editor. Connie and I would appreciate feedback on this endeavor.
- Website – The Southwest Regional Education Center is very excited about its new website located at <http://www.swrecnm.org>. Although parts of it are still under construction we hope you will begin using this as the resource it is intended to be. Our *calendar* is kept up to date and reflects all the trainings and activities we know about. If you have a training or activity you would like to open to other districts, let us know and we will post it. If you have school news that you would like to share, we (Cont. pg. 3)



Denise Gustin, our WIA data clerk, painted this on our office window. From ours to yours, Happy New Year!

News from our Business Office

As this fiscal year has gone by fast and coming to an end, it is time to start thinking of next year's budget and closing out this year. The famous purchase order cut off date will be **March 18, 2005**. I want to thank all of you for working hard on meeting the 50% spending target by December. It made us all look GOOD!

Upcoming events:

January 25, 2005 — SWREC Board Meeting @ Silver City

February 23, 24, & 25, 2005 — NMASBO Regulatory Training in Albuquerque at the Hilton in. Check out the NMASBO web site at <http://www.nmasbo.org/> for more information.

April 5, 6, 7, & 8, 2005 — Federal Consolidated annual meeting consolidated with the Spring Budget Conference in Albuquerque at the Sheraton Old Town. Check out the NMASBO web site at <http://www.nmasbo.org/> for more information.

Thank you all, have a great and safe New Year. Geri Bennett



Medicaid Update

Medicaid reimburses our schools for expenses of health related services as part of the student's IEP or IFSP. Just a reminder, needed are the student's physician's name in order for us to forward the medical forms for their approval.

Service providers, please continue to provide the SWREC Medicaid clerk with a copy of your renewed state and PED license as they come due. Those service providers being supervised must have their supervisor sign before submitting direct service logs to the Medicaid data clerk at SWREC #10.

Thank you for being a part of our students' growth and well being.

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 to be included in our next newsletter!

Borderlands Writing Project

This is the third summer for the Borderlands Writing Project, a site of the National Writing Project affiliated with New Mexico State University. The Borderlands Writing Project follows the model of a five-week, four days per week, Annual Summer Invitational Institute. A stipend to cover the costs of tuition and some materials are provided to participants. Six graduate credits, cross-listed between English and Education, are awarded upon completion of the summer session. Teachers meet Tuesday through Friday, with a three-day weekend to reflect on the process, rest, and (of course) write some more. Each morning of the Summer Institute is scheduled to include: an opening conversation with food, welcome and announcements, and teacher inquiry demonstrations. On one morning of the week, time is allotted for musing over and dialoging about on-going reflections. In the afternoon, the schedule focuses on writing groups on three days a week, research and/or reading response groups on one day, and public sharing of writing one day. The BWP is not only a good way to become more comfortable about teaching writing to students, but helps teachers become more confident and positive about their own writing which is the best way to instill the same feelings with students. Teachers from all over Southern New Mexico are encouraged to apply, for those outside of the Las Cruces area, dorm rooms are provided for the five-week Institute. This is the best of Professional Development, an intensive period of study that is directly applicable and responsive to classroom practice and pedagogy. Teachers will embark on their own teacher research that will be directly related to concerns and issues in their classrooms. All subject areas are welcome, encouraging new ways to promote writing across the curriculum and meaningful ways to increase literacy and learning.

To apply online to participate in the 2005 Annual Summer Invitational Institute of the BWP, scheduled for May 31 - July 1, 2005, log onto the following site: <http://education.nmsu.edu/projects/borderlands/summer.htm>



WIA Update

The Sierra County Youth Services' Youth One-Stop Shop (YOSS) had a busy Fall season. With 30 of our participants currently in the "Work Experience" program, and another 30 participants currently in "additional" and "transitional" services, our staff has been on the run! YOSS offers weekly Life Skills/ Career Readiness classes at Hot Springs H.S.'s Career Resource Center, as well as the Powerhouse Activity Center. The participants' last activity in December was creating over 120 Christmas ornaments and another 100 Christmas cards. They then distributed their holiday creations to some of the residents at our two Senior Residential Facilities.

As the vice-chair of the SW Area Workforce Investment Act's Youth Council, Anita Petersen, Sierra Co. Youth Services Coordinator, has been able to provide input and suggestions to improve existing youth program policies for the entire Southwest Region. She has also become involved with the SWREC Transition Cadre. With the mandated transitional services for school districts and youth programs, alike, YOSS and all member district's will be able to benefit from this Cadre's information. If there are any questions or concerns regarding WIA Youth Program policies or procedures in your county or school district, please feel free to call or e-mail.

Check out the calendar posted on our web page ([link](#)) for all regional and state events concerning all our programs. CC

News from Executive Director, cont.

it in our *news* section. We also have links to each of our district's websites. If you have changed your website address please let us know so that we may keep this current. Check out the other pages. I would appreciate any feedback on our website.

- Carl Perkins/Tech Prep – Danny Bryant will be assuming duties as our Carl Perkins/Tech Prep Coordinator. We are pleased to have his expertise. He and I will be working with your Career/ Technical staff to address the corrective action from the PED visit last year and next year's programs.
- IDEA – The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has now been reauthorized. REC # 3 will have Melinda Maloney Baird in Albuquerque on April 11 and 12 to discuss the implications for school districts.

SWREC Staff:

Cathe North, Executive Director
 Geralyn Bennett, Business Manager
 Anita Petersen, WIA Grant Facilitator
 Denise Gustin, Data clerk
 Casey Andrews Hedge, Medicaid Data Clerk
 Connie Longley Copeland, IDEA Resource Specialist
 Danny Bryant, Carl Perkins/Tech Prep Project Coordinator
 Bruce Hegwer, 3-Tier Licensure
 Doug Copeland, Technical Assistance



IDEA Update

In order to improve the services provided to students with disabilities in New Mexico, the Special Education Bureau of the Public Education Department has four major state-wide initiatives in place. These include PBS (Positive Behavior Supports), Transition, LRE (Least Restrictive Environment), and Focus Monitoring. Each newsletter will highlight one of these.

There are currently three districts (Deming, Lordsburg, and Truth or Consequences) and six schools implementing PBS in the SWREC region. PBS is a proactive systems approach for achieving social and learning success in all school settings.

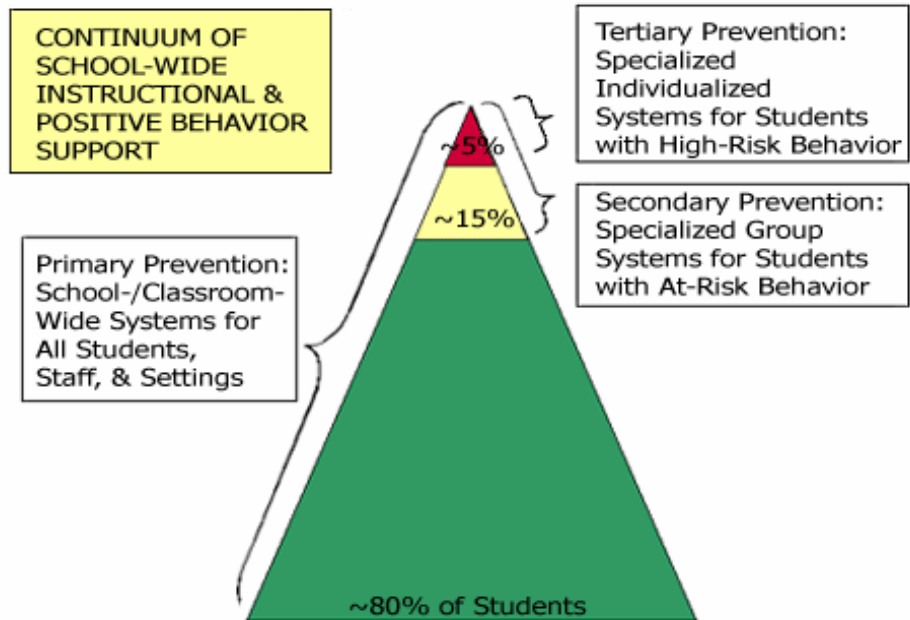
PBS is founded on the following principles:

- Social and behavioral competence and character are learned in the home, school, and community.
- Prevention is more effective than reaction.
- Teaching positive behavior is more effective than assuming students already have these skills.
- Teaching positive behavior is more effective than punishing negative behavior.
- Effective instruction incorporates research-validated methods that are designed and delivered with a high degree of fidelity over time and across settings.
- Instructional and behavioral decisions are based on data (quality of program implementation and student behavior patterns).
- Systemic change produces long-term sustainability and is best undertaken at the lo-

In New Mexico, the mission of PBS is to help schools develop, implement and maintain systems that create a positive climate that is conducive to learning for all students and maximizes school safety.

PBS links:

- <http://www.pbis.org/main.htm>
- <http://www.nmpbs.org/>



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SWREC Council

Chair	Paul Benoit, Animas Public Schools
Vice-Chair	Jim Nesbitt, Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools
Member	Rick Romero, Lordsburg Municipal Schools
Member	Dane Kennon, Hatch Valley Public Schools
Member	Dwight Myers, Reserve Independent Schools
Member	Harvilee Moore, Deming Public Schools