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New Mexico Association for the Gifted

January 2010

NMAG is a non-profit organization of gifted education professionals who are joined together to advocate for gifted education in New Mexico to address the unique social, emotional and intellectual needs of gifted students. Visit the NMAG website at: <http://nmgifted.org/> NMAG is a state affiliate of the [National Association For Gifted Children](http://www.nagc.org/) (NAGC).

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Students throughout New Mexico express their thoughts on the importance of gifted education in first NMAG essay contest

“We are similar in our academic focus, but drastically different in our approaches. Our teachers, aware of our fierce opinions and ardor, love to provoke us and observe the fireworks as we animatedly discuss the day’s political buzzword,” Amber Porter, 17, of Rio Rancho High School, wrote in her winning essay for the New Mexico Association for the Gifted essay contest.

Amber and more than 250 other students in grades K-12 from throughout New Mexico wrote essays on the theme “Why I’m thankful for gifted education” and submitted them to NMAG to be ranked by volunteer judges. Because of being in gifted education, Amber wrote, “I truly understand the advantage I gain from respecting and evaluating the views of others. By sharing my opinion, I receive tenfold more to consider. My journey to appreciate humility, respect, and diversity has not only defined my high school experience, but also will prove invaluable in future interactions with my collegiate peers. This journey would not have been possible without gifted education.”

Many students wrote that their gifted classes and services are safe places where they can express their “wild” ideas and dreams for the future, sanctuaries where they can laugh and express their care and concern for their education and for world issues, the only time during school when they can let their brightness shine through, and as challenging, thought-provoking opportunities to think about their futures and how to improve them.

Beth Derr, 13, of Roosevelt Middle School in Tijeras, winner of the middle school category, wrote about, “Why I’m grateful for Gifted Education (and why we should keep it).” She stated, “When you remember something, that means it was special; it stood out, and it made you learn. I learned so much in my gifted class, and now, in addition to having the knowledge, I remember learning it. That is a valuable personal tool.”

Tyler Peters, 8, of Nizhoni Elementary in Shiprock wrote that his gifted class “Gives me chances I wouldn’t get. I have 5 brothers and sisters so we don’t have a lot of money to go places and do things. My mom and dad work hard though. My mom says I need to go to college and I always work to that.” The gifted class “increases my chances of a better future. It shows me all the world has to offer. It tells me I can do anything. It opens doors and turns on lights. My brain opens up and the light bulb goes on.”

Comments from many of the essays were compiled and sent to state Legislators in appreciation for the support given to gifted students.

As Amber concluded, “The gifted program has helped us to become intelligent leaders who are not only confident in ourselves, but also in the strength of cooperation and humility. We could not be more thankful.” For more information on the essays and the winning students, go to www.nmgifted.org and click on Gifted Essay Contest.



Pictured are gifted students being honored in the U.S. House of Representatives. On Thursday, Feb. 11, gifted students will be recognized by the New Mexico House of Representatives.

Their Time to Shine

Gifted Education Day Set for New Mexico Legislature On Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010

Thanks to the efforts of the NM Gifted Advisory Committee, NM Association for the Gifted, the Public Education Department, and Rep. Karen Giannini, the New Mexico Legislature will celebrate Gifted Education Day on Thursday, Feb. 11, at the Capitol Building in Santa Fe.

Winners of the Gifted Essay Contest will be awarded certificates and honored during a session in the House of Representatives. Gifted students, their families, educators and others interested in gifted education are encouraged to attend the House session that morning and to stand and be recognized.

“In many ways, New Mexico is ahead of other states in the identification methods, education and services it offers to gifted students,” commented John Frazzini, president of NMAG. “Schools in New Mexico serve a very diverse population and, fortunately, because gifted students are protected under Special Education, their diverse learning and emotional needs are recognized,” John added. “Gifted Education Day is an opportunity to thank our Legislators and to celebrate the education that New Mexico offers these students who have the potential to be our future leaders, problem solvers and decision makers. Education is always a good investment, and gifted education offers a good return for everyone.”

2010 New Mexico Summer Institute for Gifted Education Update: “Pathways to Gifted”

NMAG is seeking proposals for 1 to 1½-hour workshops or presentations about working practices or new research in gifted education during its annual summer institute July 27-29 at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque.

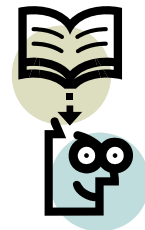
Proposals with the following topics will be given priority:

- Nature and Needs of Gifted Students
- Parenting
- Curriculum/Strategies
- Administration/Program Development
- Advocacy

Proposals should be e-mailed to John Frazzini, NMAG President, at jfrazz87401@yahoo.com.

Proposals will be reviewed by the NMAG Executive Board, and notification of acceptance or rejection will be e-mailed.

If you wish to submit more than one proposal, a separate application form is needed for each topic. Please note: Expenses for registration, travel, room, and meals are the responsibility of the presenter(s)



Send us your news!

We welcome information about gifted education and gifted students to share in the NMAG Newsletter. Is your district doing something interesting? Do you have students who should receive recognition? Please submit time sensitive information as early as possible. Send feedback and information for to Niki Mott at nmott@lcp.k12.nm.us.