



SAN LUIS VALLEY BOCES

January 2022 Newsletter

Executive Director Message

Dr. Jacque Phillips

I'm super excited to be back for the second half of the year. In reflecting over the first half, BOCES accomplished many things for our kids. To name a few:

- ◆ *Ordered assessment for students with disabilities*
- ◆ *Cleaned up the BOCES building*
- ◆ *Secured across the board raise and increase for Para-professionals*
- ◆ *Completed Professional Development on Work Days*
- ◆ *Ordered curriculum materials and much-needed classroom supplies*
- ◆ *Provided assistance to District Special Education teachers*
- ◆ *Hosted CDE (Colorado Department of Education) Consultant for SSN (Significant Support Needs) classrooms*
- ◆ *Continued supporting students that are homeless*
- ◆ *Continued supporting students identified as gifted*
- ◆ *Continued supporting students with disabilities to gain employment*
- ◆ *Remained in legal compliance*

For the second half of the year, I will be working on improving my skills in Supervision and Evaluation. I'm taking a class at UNC. I hope to provide meaningful feedback that will further BOCES professional growth.

Working for BOCES is not a job, it is a calling. Whether we call it "touching the future" or "making a difference," the impact of what we do for students matters. It is life-changing. That's why I love it here. That's why I am happy to serve. Thank you, Team BOCES, for your passion for kids. Happy New Year!



SLV SEAC

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

*Presented by: Dr. Jacque Phillips, SLV BOCES Executive Director and
Stacey Holland, SLV BOCES Special Education Director*

***Are you interested in the quality of education
received by children/youth with disabilities?***

All interested should attend the next meeting!

January 19, 2022

5:30pm - 6:30pm

Alamosa High School - ES Room

*A brief presentation of goals,
sharing of experiences (good/bad), and a Q and A at the end.*

Light dinner will be provided.

Important Dates

January 11	SAC Meeting
January 14	Staff Work Day
January 19	Board Meeting
January 19	SEAC Meeting
February 8	SAC Meeting
February 11	Staff Work Day
February 21	Office Closed
March 8	SAC Meeting
March 9	Board Meeting
March 11	Staff Work Day
March 21-25	Spring Break

Creative Exploration Day 2021

Sponsored by:

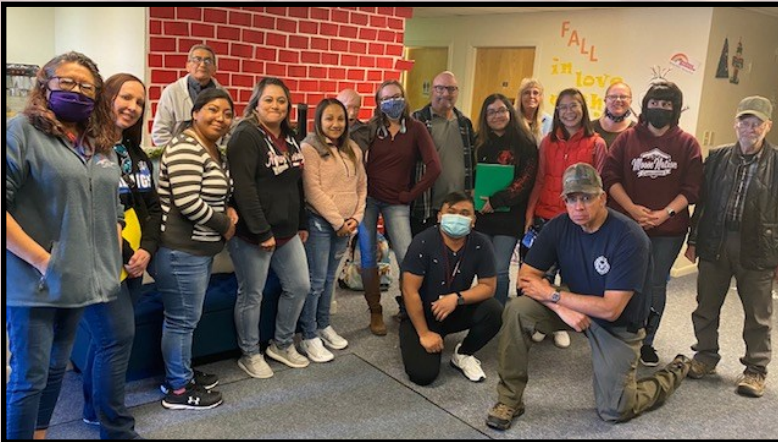
SLV BOCES Gifted Coordinator- Cheryl Franklin-Rohr
SLV GERC representative- Linda Eickhoff

December 4, 2021 was an engaging day for our San Luis Valley gifted students. The students participated in the following activities: Creating with Cakes, taught by Adriana Chapa (Home teacher, Alamosa SD), Gumdrops....Candy Canes....and Sprinkles too, taught by Amy Raya (SLV BOCES, SWAP Coordinator), Theatre: The Imagination Station, taught by Hannah Eubanks, Intro to Hand stitches taught by Aurdrey McDowall, Create with what you have! taught by Clara Adams (Science teacher, Sierra Grande SD), Paper Making, taught by Ashley Hamphil (Teach for America Volunteer), Glass Snow Globes, taught by Lucia Gaspar (SLV BOCES, SWAP Specialist), Using math to solve everyday problems, taught by Corin & Justin Romero (Monte Vista SD).

Classroom assistants were Jane Jacquart (Sierra Grande), Marci Limtiaco, Adrian Raya, Abby Rendon (South Conejos SD), Yesenia Pena, Abigail Rendon (S. Conejos), Jennifer Carter (Monte Vista SD) and Michael Rohr. Creative Exploration Day was held at Ortega Middle School, which we are thankful to Alamosa school district and Ortega Middle School for the use of their building.

The students came from eight SLV school districts and the grade levels served were 3rd through 8th grades. All the students enjoyed the hands-on experiences and were very proud of their projects and new skills to take into their world.

We are extremely grateful to all of the teachers who created such interesting classes, the classroom assistants who helped. and most importantly the parents of the students for their time, effort and dedication to helping and working with all students in this worthwhile Fall 2021 Creative Exploration Day!!



Another an amazing group of BOCES employees certified in CPR and First Aid!



Induction Program

The San Luis Valley BOCES **Induction Program** is the result of a collaborative endeavor by the SLV school districts and SLV BOCES.

Currently, 41 new teachers, special service providers, principals, administrators are enrolled in the program. Michelle Sisernos; SSN teacher and Induction instructor is working closely with each inductee and with mentors from their districts to aid their transition into the district and enhance their professional capacity.

Successfully completing the induction program allows the teacher, special service provider and/or principal, administrator to be eligible to apply for a professional license from the Colorado Department of Education.

For more information on the Induction program contact: Michelle Sisneros at msisneros@slvboces.org.

Career Fair 2021



San Luis Valley BOCES would like to thank our partners, Colorado Army National Guard and Colorado Workforce Center, for helping us put on another successful career fair. We would like to thank all who attended and helped some of our Valley high school students explore some of the great careers the San Luis Valley has to offer.

2022 San Luis Valley BOCES Board of Directors



Kristie Duran
South Conejos
School District



Tina Freely
Moffat
School District



Kurt Holland
Monte Vista
School District



Chuck Finnegan
North Conejos
School District



April Gonzales
Alamosa
School District



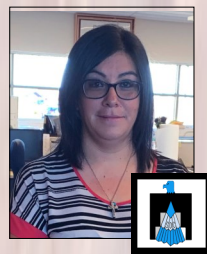
Jim Jaminet
Mountain Valley
School District



Gina Mitchell
Sargent
School District



Cory Off
Upper Rio
Grande School
District



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Sangre de Cristo
School District



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Misty Palacios
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Jennifer Castleberry
Creede
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Dylan Mortensen
Sanford
School District



Ramon Garcia
Sierra Grande
School District

SLV BOCES SSN Classroom Teachers



From left to right:

Michelle Sisneros - Alamosa K-2

Kelsey Fransen - Bill Metz Elementary

Jenelle Balboa - Marsh Elementary

John Finehout - North Conejos School District

Stevie Schuster - Ortega Middle School

Nancy West - Monte Vista Middle School

Amiel Ariota - Alamosa High School

Fred Hayashida - Monte Vista High School

Celia Riddick not pictured - Alamosa 3-5

SNN - Students with **significant support needs** are highly diverse learners with extensive needs in the areas of cognition and/or learning, communication, movement and social/emotional abilities. The individual may also have concurrent health, sensory, physical and/or behavioral disabilities.

Star Employees November & December

Michelle Sisneros - Michelle is a true example of a "team player". She has taken on various new assignments and does so with a smile. She provides amazing services for so many and is excited to share her knowledge with others. We appreciate her on many different levels and consider ourselves lucky to learn from her!



Rebecca Gomez - Rebecca works hard doing both the records as well as accounts payable. She is very knowledgeable about enrich and strives to resolve issues quickly. We appreciate her smile, her help and support. Thank you, Rebecca!

Bernice Gutierrez - Bernice is a great support to the Monte Vista High School SSN classroom. She focuses on what is best for kids, while taking a no-nonsense approach. She is respected by staff, parents, and students because she always puts the students first. We appreciate her and want to recognize her level of integrity that supports students to achieve their goals!



Kay Risdahl - "Kay is by far, the most consistent speech/language assistant I have ever worked with. She is here every Tuesday without fail. She keeps me updated weekly on student progress and works so hard for our students. Thank you for sharing her with our school! The students who receive speech services are so very grateful!" ~ Krista Middlemist; Special Education Teacher La Jara

Alternative Licensure Program

The San Luis Valley Alternative Licensure Program was created for aspiring educators who already have specific content expertise but need training to learn how to deliver instruction. Alternative Licensure Program is a 1-year certificate (the duration of program) that allows you to teach while you complete a certification program.

Currently, Joy Werner teacher and alternative licensure instructor has 14 teachers from the San Luis Valley in the 2021-2022 program.

For more information regarding the program contact Joy at jwerner@center.k12.co.us.

