



SAN LUIS VALLEY BOCES

November 2021 Newsletter

Executive Director Message

Dr. Jacque Phillips

Hello Community-

We have completed our first quarter of school with lots of success for students! BOCES does a lot of student assessment and teams up with schools to make goals and provide services for students.

Despite a nationwide shortage of educators, SLV BOCES is maintaining all services for students with disabilities. We continue to effectively run multiple grants and programs to help children get the support they need. This ranges from support for reading programs, programs for students who are gifted, students who are homeless, students who are at-risk, students who are entering employment, and help for pre-school children.

We have restructured our BOCES Team and now have an Administration Team and Team Leaders from departments. This helps us to navigate all the programs under the BOCES umbrella. We also have strong staff providing all the data analysis and records and reporting to CDE. They are the wizards behind the curtain, spending lots of time in the office to make sure we are correctly tracking programs for kids.

BOCES is a place where going above and beyond is the norm. It's a challenging workplace where we are passionate about student success.

Please contact us with any questions, concerns or inspirational stories! It is an honor to be here.

September and October have been busy for SWAP!



- Attended 3 Job Fairs (Alamosa County, Rio Grande County & Conejos County)
- Attended 3 Open Houses/Student registration at schools (North Conejos School District, Center School District, & Goal Academy)
- Attended the 30th Anniversary for Center Towards Self-Reliance (aka Center for Disabilities)
- Attended a Human Trafficking training-

Amy and Lucia are planning on attending a Career Fair in November for Valley school district students at the National Guard Armory.

Thank you Amy and Lucia for representing SWAP throughout the Valley!

Important Dates

Nov. 9th - SAC Meeting
12th - Staff Dev / Work Day
16th - SEAC @ MVHS
Steering Committee
17th - Board Meeting
22-26th - Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 3rd - CPR / First Aid Class
10th - Staff Dev./Work Day
14th - SAC
20-3rd - Winter Break

Congratulations to our September & October Star Employees!



**John Finehout, ES Teacher
- North Conejos Middle/High School**
We appreciate John and his willingness to work with any situation that he is given with an open mind. He truly cares for the students he serves which is evidenced by the atmosphere of the classroom and the progress the students are making! Thank you, John, for all you do for kids!



Sarah Gears, School Psychologist
Sarah has had some tough cases right from the beginning of the year and this is her first year as a School Psychologist. Sarah is very professional and very knowledgeable. She is supportive of her students and teachers. Sarah keeps her sense of humor and good spirits even when the job gets hard.



Stevie Schuster, Extended Services Teacher - Ortega Middle School
Stevie is so happy all the time. She makes learning fun for her kids. She uses a lot of hands-on teaching with her kids. They absolutely love her. She is very organized and always has their work ready for them. It is going to be a fun year working with Stevie.



Amiel Ariota, Extended Services Teacher - Alamosa High School
Amiel has worked very hard to adapt and accommodate to his new life here. He jumped right in and has been teaching his students with a huge learning curve! He is willing to go that extra mile to make sure the students are engaged. He will advocate for himself and seeks the information he needs! He does all of this with a smile and positive attitude.



Medicaid Minute

REMINDER

“Random Moment Time Study” has started! If you are selected, you will receive an advanced notification email sent to your BOCES email address. The email will be from “cormts” and this notification will provide you the date and exact time of your selected moment. Even though it may seem silly, completing this survey is **extremely important**. You must answer your “moment” for SLV BOCES to be compliant with the state. If you have questions PLEASE reach out to Adeline. alee@slvboces.org



American Heart Association conducted a training on October 1st and 15 BOCES employees became certified in CPR and First Aid. Next class November 12th!



Meet your.....

ADMIN TEAM

San Luis Valley BOCES



Get to know your Executive Director, Dr. Jacque Phillips.....

- I was a high school dropout and a teenage mom.
- I taught math and special education for 25 years in Colorado, Hawaii, Burma, Kenya, and Saudi Arabia.
- I have a doctorate in Special Education and a law degree.
- I was a professor at ASU 20 years ago.
- My parents grew up on farms just south of Chicago and I fled to Colorado in 1984.
- I have 4 brothers, one daughter and 2 teenage grandkids.



Get to know your Special Education Director, Stacey Holland.....

- Born in Albuquerque
- Little Brown Monkey (named Cocoa) was my nanny for 2 years (explains a lot)
- Knew I wanted to be a special education teacher in first grade when I first brought a girl home after school that was struggling to learn to write and gave her lessons every week-lol for a month...
- Married to Robert Holland, mother of 2 sons and a daughter, grandma to 4 grandsons and 1 granddaughter.



Get to know your Business Manager, Staci Turner....

- I have two new basset hound puppies named Betty & Lois who turned four months old in October.
- I enjoy taking pictures that I can then scrapbook or make cards.
- I love to go camping at the beach, as well as in our beautiful Colorado mountains.
- I love spending time/relaxing in our backyard, garden and the mountains.
- I find kayaking to be a fun and relaxing activity.
- I am a 4th generation Coloradoan with my hometown being Montrose.
- My husband & I will celebrate our 19th anniversary on November 29!
- I love to read!



Get to know Cindy Squires, HR / Payroll....

- I was born in Mansfield, Louisiana but have lived most of my life in Colorado.
- I've been married to my husband for over 30 years and we have 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandsons and 3 granddaughters.
- I play Fantasy Football every year and I'm currently in 1st place in my league.
- I love taking photos. One of my photos was used for the cover of a book, one was featured on MSN.com and several were used for the Monte Vista Crane Festival a couple of years ago.
- I am deathly afraid of chickens (unless they're fried) 😊



Get to know Adeline Duarte-Lee, Admin. Asst. / Medicaid Coord.

- I've lived in Alamosa 47 years.
- Single mom of 2 girls; Jessica 19 and Heather 16.
- I love to read science fiction.... yes, I'm a Trekkie lol
- My dream vacation is Alaska; deep sea fishing, dog sledding and seeing the northern lights.
- My dream job is to be a storm chaser!

Education Stability Grant

I'm Luron Singer and the Education Stability grant writer and coordinator for this grant and we are in year of three and hoping to have this grant available again to submit an RFP next spring. All valley schools were invited to be part of this grant and the schools that are participating are Alamosa, Monte Vista, Center, Moffat and Centennial. This grant supports the Migrant, Homeless and Foster students through tutoring by a licensed teacher, school supplies, counselors, transportation to and from school for after school and Friday school and extracurricular activities, engagement activities such as art supplies for projects and career exploration. The grant supports one counselor in Alamosa and they split the cost, Center receive funds to help pay for a counselor, and they both get supporting services along with Monte Vista, Moffat and Centennial which includes tutoring monies, art engagement activities, after school transportation, snack monies for students with food insecurities, and career exploration. The second year of this grant we supported 480 students in the five schools.



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!

November 16, 2021

5:30pm - 6:30pm

Monte Vista High School

295 E. Prospect Ave, Monte Vista

A brief presentation of goals,

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

Light dinner will be provided.