



Boys' Education & Learning in New Mexico

We invite you to attend the second annual conference of the New Mexico Men's Council for Boys and Young Men. This year's topic is Boys' Education and Learning in New Mexico.

Boys' declining performance in our schools has become increasingly significant over the past several decades. According to the latest 2008 dropout data, fewer than half of boys in New Mexico finish high school. Another telling statistic is that only about 42 percent of the students in colleges and universities are males. Why do we see this happening? Does the New Mexico community acknowledge its occurrence? How do we begin to mobilize parents, teachers, administrators, politicians, students, and funders to take meaningful action to address the needs of our boys in school?

The primary issues of our conference have a direct link to all of our most serious societal problems. Larger numbers of boys continuing to drop out of school and high school graduates not going on to college are linked to the quality of our work force and the poverty rate. As boys increasingly feel unwelcome in school, many turn to drugs and alcohol, oppositional behavior and passive and active aggression. These, in turn, contribute to the growing rates of addiction and domestic violence.

The conference will feature:

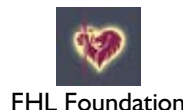
- ▶ **Leonard Sax, MD, PhD** who will talk about his insightful book, *Boys Adrift*, exploring the factors affecting boys' achievement and motivation, and addressing how parents, educators, and community can help our boys fulfill their potential. Dr. Sax will also lead afternoon workshops on single gender education and on how other communities deal with boys adrift.
- ▶ A panel of local residents--a judge, a legislator, a sociologist, and a youth advocate--will discuss how we see "boys adrift" in New Mexico.
- ▶ A luncheon presentation by Richard Rohr, OFM, on Males, Initiation, and Education.
- ▶ Afternoon workshops focusing on boys' issues:
 - Native Boys', Education and Learning
 - You Can Lead a Boy to School, But Can You Make Him Think?
 - How Other Schools and Communities Deal with the "Boys Adrift" Phenomenon
 - Education-Related Health Disparities of Boys: A Public Health Crisis
 - Dropouts and Gangs
 - Latino Boys', Education and Learning
 - Single Gender Classrooms & New Mexico
 - Suicide and Boys, the School Perspective
 - Experiential Learning - Beyond the Process of Formal Education

Conference Sponsors:

THE SANTA FE BOYS FUND

The Doris Goodwin Walbridge Foundation

NM Forum for Youth in Community



CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:30 am - 8:00 am

Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:00 am – 8:30 am

Welcome by Paul Golding, Editor, *Santa Fe Boys Newsletter* & Conference Coordinator

8:30 am -10:15 am

Opening Keynote Address: Dr. Leonard Sax

8:30 am - 10:15 am

Boys Adrift: The Five Factors Driving the Growing Epidemic of Unmotivated Boys and Underachieving Young Men



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The author of the best-selling book, *Why Gender Matters*, and executive director of the National Association of Single Sex Public Education, **Dr. Leonard Sax** will explore the factors affecting boys' achievement and motivation and address how parents and educators can help our sons fulfill their potential. Drawing on research and his vast experience with boys and their families, he will argue that social and biological factors are creating an environment that is literally toxic for boys. Among the issues he will address are a misguided overemphasis on reading and math as early as kindergarten, too much time spent playing video games, over-reliance on medication for attention deficit disorder, not enough emphasis on learning as opposed to education, the toxicity of our food, and the failure to assign pro-social meaning to boys' gender.

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in biology, Dr. Sax began the combined MD-PhD program at the University of Pennsylvania. He graduated from Penn in 1986 and went on to do a 3-year residency in family practice at Lancaster General Hospital in Pennsylvania. In 1990, Dr. Sax launched a private medical practice in suburban Montgomery County, Maryland, about 30 minutes northwest of the District of Columbia. He practiced in the same location, serving families in the same small town, for 18 years (1990 - 2008). In June 2008, Dr. Sax retired from medical practice in order to devote himself full-time to issues of gender in education, and to leading The National Association of Single Sex Public Education, the non-profit organization he helped to launch in 2002.

10:30 am - 11:15 am

Boys Adrift in New Mexico: Panel Discussion

Several who have experienced and struggled to make sense of the "Boys Adrift" issue will present their thoughts on the phenomenon, addressing the question of how we see this in New Mexico.



John J. Romero, Jr. serves in Albuquerque as a District Court Judge in the Children's Court Division. He presides over delinquency matters, neglect and abuse cases and adoptions. Judge Romero is actively involved in his community's family violence prevention efforts.



Courtesy of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Nancy Lopez is an associate professor of sociology at the University of New Mexico and author of the book, *Hopeful Girls, Troubled Boys: Race and Gender Disparity in Urban Education*. Her current work includes research on the achievement gap, discipline gap and indigenous education in New Mexico.



State Representative Rick Miera from Albuquerque is the Chair of the House Education Committee and Vice-Chair of the Legislative Education Study Committee. He is also a therapist and consultant.



Peter Estrada is a 2003 graduate of Albuquerque High and attended UNM, studying education and history. He is currently an AmeriCorp VISTA Leader at the NM Forum for Youth in Community where he coordinates the Youth Violence Prevention Network. He is also a member of the NM Men's Council for Boys and Young Men.

11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Q & A from Audience to Dr. Sax and Panelists

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Break and book signing

12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

Lunch Address: Males, Initiation, and Education



Richard Rohr (OFM) is the founder and guiding spirit of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque. He is a Franciscan of the New Mexico province and has spoken internationally on men's spirituality since 2003. Among his recent publications are *Adam's Return: The Five Promises of Male Initiation*, and *From Wild Men to Wise Men*.

1:45 pm - 3:00 pm

Concurrent Workshops

1. Native Boys', Education and Learning

Native boys and young men have disproportionately high rates of school leaving and incarceration. A Gallup-based national program—Project Venture—has been the leader in emphasizing the critical role of traditional rites of passage in the lives of Native youth as a way of reducing these dismal statistics. Mac Hall, the Executive Director and founder of the National Indian Youth Leadership Project, the parent of Project Venture, and Ben Soce, a Navajo with many years of experience in Tachee, the Navajo male puberty ceremony, will describe their work with Native boys and education.

2. You Can Lead a Boy to School, But Can You Make Him Think?

What do boys themselves think about their education? This workshop will feature five middle and high school students who will talk about such topics as what motivates them to learn, what they want their school to be like, their favorite teachers' characteristics, what they think about the growing gender gap at college and more. Ray Lopez, a native of New Mexico and a product of NM public schools is a certified life coach. He will facilitate the discussion with a group of young men he has recruited for this effort from Santa Fe Public Schools.

3. How Other Schools and Communities Deal with the "Boys Adrift" Phenomenon

In this workshop, Dr. Sax will discuss the experiences of other school districts and communities in this country and abroad in treating the boys adrift phenomenon. What steps are other school districts taking to make schools more "boy friendly" and to organize parents to respond to their sons' declining interest in school and career? Also covered will be questions of resistance to change in this area. Dr. Leonard Sax is the author of *Boys Adrift: The Five Factors Driving the Growing Epidemic of Unmotivated Boys and Underachieving Young Men*.

4. Education-Related Health Disparities of Boys: A Public Health Crisis

Disparities and inequities in education and learning for boys is a public health crisis. Education in early life is a major predictor of social status and a determinant of well-being and adult health status. School dropout rates also contribute to poor health outcomes. Current research documents: (1) a health gradient based on education; and (2) gaps in education and health status between non-whites and whites. This discussion explores 'structural violence,' 'downstream' and 'upstream' themes that influence a life course and shape the lives and health of future generations. Dr. Jamal Martin, the presenter, is Clinical Assistant Professor, Family & Community Medicine, University of New Mexico School of Medicine; and Advisor, Project Alpha – A Partnership Between March of Dimes and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

5. Dropouts and Gangs

We know that there is a high correlation between dropping out of school and gang membership. This workshop will explore how gang membership offers a haven for dropouts. It will also examine the dynamic relationship between solving the dropout issue and reducing gangs. Michael Brown, Director of Leadership and Professional Development at the New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community, and Peter Estrada, who coordinates the Youth Violence Prevention Network for the same organization, will lead this discussion.

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm | Break

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

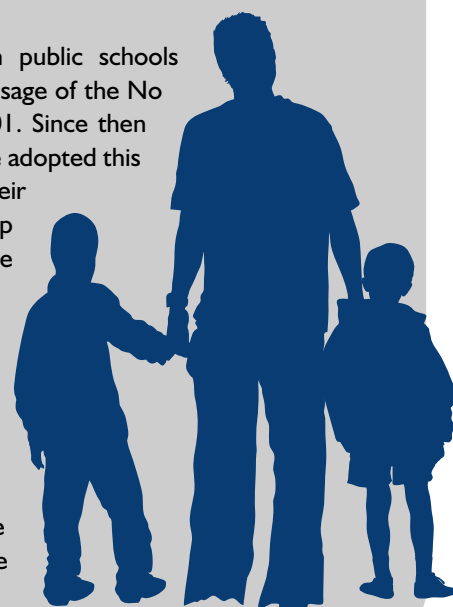
Concurrent Workshops

1. Latino Boys', Education and Learning

What are the current issues Latino males face in their education and learning in New Mexico? What philosophies, projects, programs, and organizations are there to help Latino males in the state's educational systems? This workshop, led by Erwin Rivera of ENLACE, Chris Lopez of UNM's El Centro de la Raza, Miguel Angel Acosta of the Santa Fe Partnership, and Peter Estrada of the NM Forum for Youth in Community, will address these issues and engage the audience with questions and answers.

2. Single Gender Classrooms & New Mexico

Single gender classrooms in public schools became possible with the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Since then about 600 public schools have adopted this format in some or all of their classrooms. This workshop will address the experience with this "old" educational innovation. Under what circumstances has it proven effective? What is required of teachers, administrators and parents for it to work? Dr. Leonard Sax, the presenter, is President of the National Association of Single Sex Public Education.



3. Suicide and Boys, the School Perspective

Over eighty percent of youth suicides in New Mexico are committed by boys and young men, 24 and younger. Two presenters who provide suicide prevention and intervention services for the Albuquerque Public Schools will offer statistics and information on current approaches used in schools. They will address some of the gender differences regarding youth suicide and possible program responses to the differences. The presenters are Craig Pierce of the Southwest Family Guidance Center and Institute, which provides counseling services for the Albuquerque Public Schools to suicidal students, and Sharon Pearson of the Albuquerque Public Schools Counseling Department in charge of suicide prevention intervention programs.

4. Experiential Learning - Beyond the Process of Formal Education

Learning can take place for boys on many different levels; the classroom is not always the best place for the learning patterns and energy levels of young males. Indeed, learning theory has shown

that retention improves as the number of sensory inputs into the learning process increases. Experiential education allows for more integration of learning as well as a greater investment and interest for boys than traditional methods. Activity, skill building, and learning through problem solving are the basis for programs that enhance the ability of boys to process and use information. Mark Walch, LPCC, an expert in therapeutic wilderness and experiential learning, will lead this workshop.

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Closing Session

This is an open mike plenary session where participants are provided an opportunity to address the organizers of the conference with their thoughts about its successes, shortcomings, and next steps.

LOGISTICS:

Location:

Sandia Resort & Casino
30 Rainbow Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
Tel: 1-800-526-9366
www.sandiaresort.com

Directions:

From North or South bound Interstate 25 exit at Tramway (EXIT 234), head East to the Resort.

From East or West bound Interstate 40 merge onto I-25 North and exit at Tramway (EXIT 234), head East to the Resort.

Parking:

There is ample **FREE self parking** at Sandia Resort. Please follow directions to Sandia Resort parking rather than the Casino parking. Shuttles are available from all parking lots to the entrance on the East side of the Resort.

Lodging:

Participants must make their own lodging arrangements. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Sandia Resort Hotel. The special room rate is \$139.00 single/double plus applicable state and local taxes. To receive this special rate please call the hotel at 877-272-9199 or (505) 798-3930 and reference the "NM Men's Council Conference" by October 16, 2009.

Registration Fee:

Before October 16, 2009: \$40

(Includes continental breakfast and the keynote luncheon)

After October 17, 2009 and on site, if space is still available: \$50

Last year this conference sold out! Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. We cannot guarantee that on-site registrations will be accommodated.

Scholarships:

A limited number of scholarships is available to cover the cost of conference registration. If you would like to apply for a scholarship, please:

1. Write a brief statement of interest (no more than 150 words) describing why you wish to attend the conference and how it will benefit you and your work and/or goals in life. Include a short biographical statement about yourself: your work, interests and where you attend school or are employed.

2. Complete the Registration Form included in this brochure.

3. Submit both the letter and your completed registration form by

Friday, October 2 to:

NM Men's Council for Boys &

Young Men Scholarship Review Committee

PO Box 67585 • Albuquerque, NM 87193

Fax: (505) 890-0703 (A cover sheet is not necessary)

Email: NMMC2009@mgr-events.com

You will be notified on or before October 16th of your scholarship status.



Helping Students and the UNM Community Succeed!

While you are at the conference make sure to visit our conference bookstore. The bookstore will be open throughout the conference. Checks, Cash, MasterCard and VISA will be accepted.

“The New Mexico Men’s Council for Boys and Young Men promotes positive male development through forums that inform and advocate for policy, practice and research to support integrated systems change in areas of health, education, and social well-being.”

NM Men’s Council for Boys and Young Men

An important basis for the Council is to promote the idea that men are needed in the lives of young males—as fathers, mentors, teachers, and friends. The council is a symbolic and tangible statement of paternal concern on the part of a group of concerned New Mexico men for the healthy development of boys. We are looking for new members who share our interest. Please visit our booth in the hotel pre-function area and our website at www.nmboys.org.

The NM Men’s Council for Boys and Young Men are:

- Dave Breault, Father and Family Center (Albuquerque)
- Richard Franits, Director, Youth & Family Counseling (Albuquerque)
- Peter Estrada, NM Forum for Youth in Community (Albuquerque)
- Ray Lopez, (Santa Fe)
- Mike Fluellen (Albuquerque)
- Paul Golding, Editor, Santa Fe Boys Newsletter (Santa Fe)
- McClellan Hall, Executive Director, National Indian Youth Leadership Project (Grants)

- W. Azul la Luz B., (Abiquiu)
- Jamal Martin, Behavioral Epidemiologist (Albuquerque)
- Adrian Pedroza, Executive Director, Albuquerque Partnership (Albuquerque)
- Nigel Vann, Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (Silver City)

Advisory/Honorary Board Members

- Hector Balderas, New Mexico State Auditor
- Brian Colón, Chair, New Mexico Democratic Party Chair
- Sen. Dede Feldman, Bernalillo
- Sen. Linda Lopez, Bernalillo
- Rep. Antonio “Moe” Maestas, Albuquerque
- Sen. Gerald “Jerry” Ortiz y Pino, Bernalillo
- John J. Romero Jr., Judge, 2nd Judicial District Court, Albuquerque
- Eliseo Torres, Vice President for Student Affairs, UNM



REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Register online at www.nmboys.org!

Or complete the enclosed registration form and submit via:

Fax: With credit card or purchase order payment only to (505) 890-0703 (A cover sheet is not necessary)

Mail: With check, purchase order or credit card payment information to: Melissa G. Rael & Associates (NMMC), PO Box 67585 Albuquerque, NM 87193

Please make checks payable to Melissa G. Rael & Associates.
Federal Tax ID# 06-1789594.

We accept **VISA** and **MasterCard**. If you pay by credit card, a charge from Melissa G. Rael & Associates will appear on your credit card statement.

Purchase orders must reference attendee name(s). Purchase order requests will not be accepted as payment. Please make Purchase Orders payable to Melissa G. Rael & Associates.
Federal Tax ID# 06-1789594.

You will be e-mailed a confirmation letter upon receipt of your registration. If you do not receive a confirmation, please call (505) 508-2999 or e-mail NMMC2009@mgr-events.com to determine your registration status.

Refund Policy:

No refunds after November 6, 2009. A \$10 administrative fee will be deducted from cancellations before November 6, 2009. Cancellations must be submitted in writing via fax or e-mail to the conference office. You may send someone in your place without penalty. Please call the conference office at (505) 508-2999 with the name change.

Organizations submitting purchase orders with a registration form will be invoiced and expected to pay, even if the individual does not attend.

Special Accommodations:

If you are in need of special accommodations, e.g. sign language interpretation or Spanish language interpretation, please contact the conference office at (505) 508-2999 by November 6, 2009. All of the facilities we have selected are accessible. TDD or TTY users may access this number via the New Mexico Relay Network at (800) 659-8331.

Continuing Education Units:

The conference has applied for 5 Continuing Education Units for Counselors and Social Workers. Approval status is pending and final determination will be updated on the conference website at www.nmboys.org. We do not guarantee that the applications will be approved. If approved, attendees must abide by sign-in/out procedures and complete the conference evaluation. If approved for CEUs, attendees will receive a Certificate of Completion at the close of the conference.

Questions?

Please contact the conference management office at (505) 508-2999 or e-mail NMMC2009@mgr-events.com.

Boys' Education & Learning in New Mexico 2009

Save time! Register online at www.nmboys.org!

Registrations, only if accompanied by purchase order or credit card payment, can be faxed to (505) 890-0703. Please print legibly. Please register one attendee per registration form. Photocopies are acceptable.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ ext. _____ Email*: _____

* By providing this, you grant Melissa G. Rael & Associates and the NMMC the permission to contact you via e-mail regarding your registration as well as to send you meeting updates.

Please Check the Attendance Options that Apply:

Registrar:

Before October 16: \$40

After October 16: \$50

Other:

Scholarship Applicant ("Statement of Interest" must be attached for scholarships. See Logistics page under "Scholarships" for more information.)

I require a vegetarian meal.

I have a special dietary need. (Please explain) _____

I plan to receive CEUs.

If you require sign language interpretation or Spanish language interpretation, please contact the conference office at (505) 508-2999 by November 6, 2009.

Payment Methods:

Purchase order (Refer to PO instructions on Logistics page.)

Check payable to **Melissa G. Rael & Associates**

Visa MC

Name on card: _____

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

For Office Use Only:

Received: _____

Payment Method: Check _____ CC _____ PO _____ SCHOLAR _____