



**Albuquerque Association
for
Gifted & Talented Students**

~ **33rd Annual Conference** ~

Saturday, October 22, 2011

7:45 AM – 3:45 PM

A Call for Character:

*Transforming the Gifted Learner
to the Gifted Leader*

Presented by M. Elizabeth Nielsen, Ph.D. & Dennis Higgins, Ed.D.



Albuquerque Academy

**The Albert G. and Ruth Hanna McCormick
Simms Center for the Performing Arts
6400 Wyoming NE Albuquerque, NM**

*Visit www.aagts.org to register online
and find more detailed information on the conference and speakers.*

7:45 – 8:45 AM	<p>Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Viewing Exhibits <i>East Dining Hall</i></p> <p>Come visit our exhibitors at 8:00 am. For those arriving after 8:15 am, please register in the lobby of Simms Center for the Performing Arts.</p>
8:45 – 9:00	<p>Announcements, Introduction of Presenters <i>Simms Center for the Performing Arts, Auditorium</i></p>
9:00 – 11:30 Session I <i>(a break will be announced by the presenters)</i>	<p>A Call for Character: the Confluence of Wisdom, Ethics, and Moral Courage <i>“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”</i> <i>—John Quincy Adams, 6th President of the United States (1767-1848)</i></p> <p>On a daily basis, events that raise complex, ethical issues are brought into our homes and classrooms through a variety of digital devices. The intellectual curiosity of gifted children compels them to ponder and question these adult-level, human-driven situations. As a result, gifted children raise equally complex, ethical questions at home and in the classroom. More and more, these moral and ethical dilemmas bring the gifted learner to the threshold of ethical leadership.</p> <p>This session will provide parents and teachers with methods designed to respond to these questions in a manner that moves the discussion away from the specific issue and into a broader investigation of universally accepted ethical leadership. Drs. Nielsen and Higgins will introduce a philosophical model—“The Transformative Leadership Model for the Gifted” (Nielsen, Higgins, & Betts, 2008)—designed to facilitate the development of advanced leadership skills in gifted learners. Their presentation will be infused with video, live music and practical parental and teaching ideas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Simms Center for the Performing Arts, Auditorium</i></p>
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<p>Viewing of Exhibits <i>Please visit our exhibitors in the lobby of Simms Center</i></p>
11:45 – 12:45	<p>Lunch and Craft Fair* <i>East Dining Hall</i></p>
1:00 – 2:15 PM Session II	<p>Optimism Despite Hard Times: Using Primary-Source Songs, Film, and Images to Explore Complex Issues</p> <p>Gifted students often struggle to make sense of the complex issues in today’s world. It can be difficult to remain hopeful and positive when faced with immense global challenges. However, throughout history and across cultures, individuals and small groups have found ways to remain optimistic about the future. Using the theme, “Optimism Despite Hard Times,” this multi-media session models the use of technology and primary source materials to investigate sophisticated, interdisciplinary themes. Historical songs, films, and audio recordings gathered directly from the National Archives will be shared along with an array of online resources.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Simms Center for the Performing Arts, Auditorium</i></p>

* We will have wonderful exhibitors and a small crafts fair so come prepared to shop! Some vendors will only accept cash.

2:15 – 2:30 PM	Break <i>Please visit our exhibitors in the lobby of Simms Center</i>
2:30 – 3:45 Session III	Moral Courage: Using Children’s Literature to Investigate Dimensions of Leadership This multi-media session invites participants to explore the use of children’s literature and illustrated books as a springboard for promoting moral courage. Emphasis will be placed on literature that demonstrates various dimensions of ethics, courage, virtue, tenacity, and inspiration. The presenters will discuss ways to select illustrated books that are artistically and intellectually challenging to gifted learners, and how to develop discussion questions/activities based on these books. A curricular grid of teaching ideas using the William’s Model of Integration and a handout containing a list of 50 sophisticated illustrated books will be distributed during this session. These books have been used directly with gifted children in programs nationwide. <i>Simms Center for the Performing Arts, Auditorium</i>
3:45	Adjournment and Viewing of Exhibits <i>Please fill out the conference evaluation and deposit it in the marked boxes located in the lobby. If you require a certificate of attendance, please pick it up when you turn in your evaluation at the end of the conference.</i>

M. Elizabeth Nielsen, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Special Education at the University of New Mexico and serves as the coordinator for the Gifted Education Teacher Training Program. Dr. Nielsen has focused much of her 30 years of university work on unique populations of gifted learners with disabilities. She has published numerous articles and textbook chapters regarding these twice-exceptional students, and has made over fifty presentations at international, national, regional, and local conferences, as well as assisted in the production of nationally disseminated audio and video recordings on the topic. In 2010, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Colorado Association for the Gifted and Talented, and an Honorary Membership from The Colorado Academy of Education for the Gifted, Talented, and Creative. She is recognized as a Southern Methodist University School of Education and Human Development Distinguished Lecturer, and is a recipient of the prestigious Burlington Teaching Award.

L. Dennis Higgins, Ed.D. is a retired teacher from the Albuquerque Public Schools. He has authored and co-authored numerous articles, two book chapters, and has produced several music and video recordings that focus on twice-exceptional children. He has been a keynote speaker at various state, national, and international conferences and has made over 50 presentations international, national, regional, and local conferences. He was an invited consultant for the “Twice-Exceptional Dilemma,” a booklet jointly published by the National Education Association (NEA) and the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC). He was featured in the PBS television special “A Chance to Read” for the syndicated program “Reading Rockets.” Some of Dr. Higgins’s awards include: Teacher of the Year for the New Mexico Association for Gifted Students (2010), Albuquerque School District Teacher of the Year (2008), New Mexico Golden Apple for Excellence in Teaching (2007), Distinguished Service Award from the Colorado Association for the Gifted and Talented, and Honorary Membership from the Colorado Academy of Education for the Gifted, Talented, and Creative. In 2005, Dr. Higgins was inducted into the Kansas Music Hall of Fame for his national contributions to children’s music. He has been honored on the floor of the New Mexico House of Representatives in Santa Fe, for his exceptional educational service, and is recognized as a Southern Methodist University School of Education and Human Development Distinguished Lecturer.



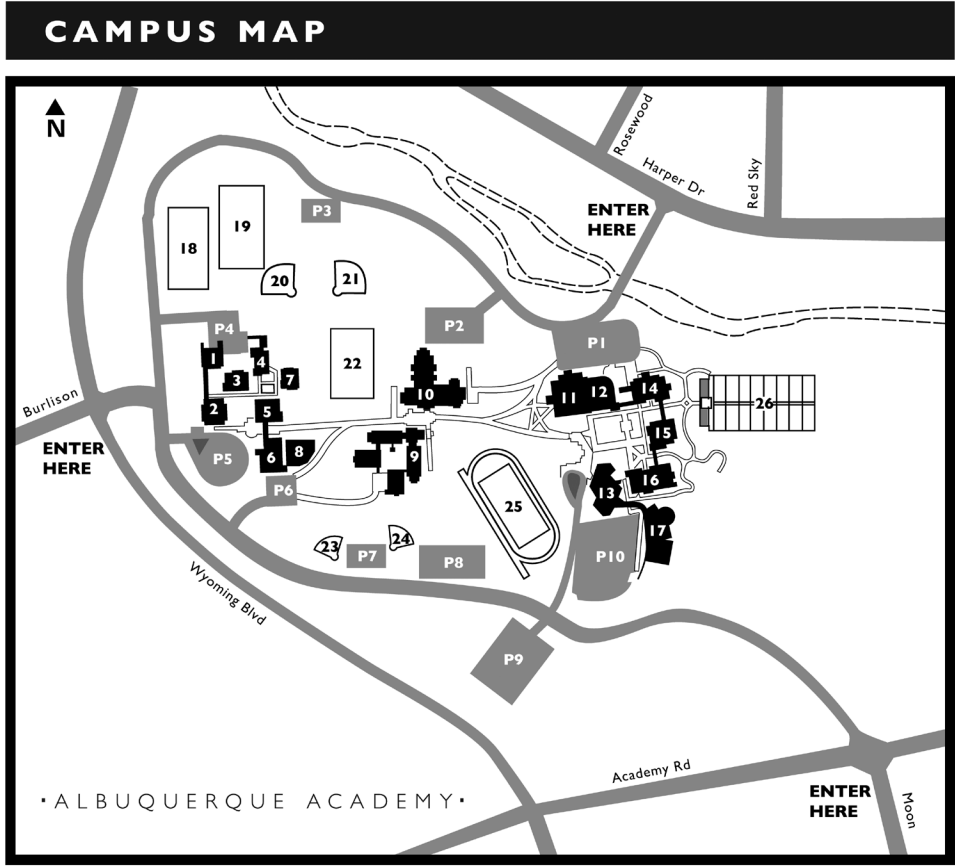
**Albuquerque Association
for Gifted and Talented Students**

PO Box 94328
Albuquerque, NM 87199-4328

A nonprofit organization
dedicated to
developing one of our
most precious resources -
gifted and talented
students.

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Permit No. 804



Albuquerque Academy is a non-smoking campus

AAGTS Fall Conference
will be held at
Albuquerque Academy's
Upper School
(East Campus)

Registration and lunch
will be in the
East Dining Hall (12)

Speakers will
be located in
Simms Center for the
Performing Arts (13)

Please park in
lots P1 and P10