



# Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Department of Senior Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Anthony R. Romero (505) 977-4565**

**Thursday, October 10, 2013 ❖ 2:00 p.m**

## **The City of Albuquerque Department of Senior Affairs & Albuquerque Public Schools Partner to Address Truancy**

**ALBUQUERQUE**—Mayor Richard J. Berry and Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) Superintendent Winston Brooks will announce a partnership between the Department of Senior Affairs and APS that will begin to tackle the issue of truancy. APS will utilize volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to assist in an effort to reduce truancy. The initiative will focus on three main areas to decrease chronic school absence: early identification, intervention, and referral. Last week, the first group of RSVP volunteers participated in an orientation regarding their volunteer assignment at the Highland Senior Center. Mayor Berry and Superintendent Brooks are thankful to the first group of senior volunteers who participated in the orientation.

“I am very excited about the City of Albuquerque becoming an active part of the APS Truancy Prevention Initiative.” said Mayor Richard J. Berry. “This opportunity will provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for seniors in our community, while really creating uplifting support for APS students and families.” Superintendent Brooks said, “The goal of the Truancy Prevention Initiative is to open the channels of communication so we better understand what the barriers are that stand in the way of our students getting the education they deserve, and then following through with the help we have available. RSVP volunteers can assist us with a facet of this initiative.”

Last school year, there were over 16,000 chronically truant students in APS. This issue creates a win-win opportunity for APS and the City of Albuquerque to join forces and bolster student attendance and community engagement. A partnership among families, volunteers, businesses, and everyone working together is critical to make a positive change. The City of Albuquerque is pleased to be part of this initiative. To learn more about becoming an RSVP volunteer, call (505) 764-1616.

###

**Anthony R. Romero, Social Services Division Manager**  
City of Albuquerque Department of Senior Affairs  
Barelas Senior Center ❖ 714 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102  
o (505) 764-6406 ❖ c (505) 977-4565 ❖ arromero@cabq.gov