



February 2021

Against the Grain: Jason Butts LEAPS into Physical Education



Coach Krupt he is not. You won't play Bombardment in his P.E. class; nor will you find shades of Mr. Woodcock lurking in his gymnasium. In fact, Jason Butts is about as far from the depiction of a stereotypical P.E. teacher as you can get. Today, you will find Butts teaching 7th and 8th grade physical education at Carlsbad Intermediate School. But with a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico in Earth and Planetary Science, it should come as no surprise that he was first hired to teach sophomore biology and Advanced Placement Environmental Science.

Although Jason Butts's credentials may be fairly unique in the world of physical education, his strong academic background and the unique real-world experience he brings to his classroom are typical of LEAP teachers around the state. And like many of his LEAP peers, Butts's road to teaching wasn't easy.

Raised in Roswell, New Mexico, Butts grew up in the heart of the state's oil and gas industry. After graduating from UNM, he was recruited by the Carlsbad Municipal School District to teach science and coach baseball. Butts enrolled in an alternative teacher licensing program offered by a local university, where he could receive his teaching credentials while completing a Master's degree in Education. Like all alternative licensure candidates, Butts entered the classroom with no teaching experience and had to hit the ground running on day one.

"I got there, and I didn't know how to handle the kids. I didn't know what I was doing. The university program wasn't geared toward 'right now' skills," Butts said. "I was learning things I could use at some point in my teaching career, but not at the moment I stepped foot in the classroom. I quit after nine weeks."

The day after he quit, Butts went out to the oil fields and got a job. He stayed in the oil industry for 10 months before a fellow teacher in Carlsbad again reached out to Butts with the lure of a job in physical education.





“I’ve always been active in sports, and I also studied exercise science at UNM for two years. So, when a teacher here reached out with a P.E. job, I thought I’d give it another try,” Butts said. “We’re a really big school—about a thousand kids in 7th and 8th grade, so there are a lot of coaches. My first year I coached football and baseball, and this year I ended up becoming the athletic coordinator at the junior high.”

Rather than trying the university approach again, the second time around Butts decided to try out the Leading Educators through Alternative Pathways (LEAP) licensure program to receive his teaching certification. His district was promoting the program and working with LEAP regional coordinators, so the district even paid the nominal \$1,500 program fee for him.

To sweeten the deal, Butts also learned that through LEAP’s partnership with the University of the Southwest, he can complete his Master’s in Education at a reduced cost through credit transfer.

“LEAP was great because it taught me some immediate hands-on skills: how to manage a classroom; how to create lesson plans using backward planning and Universal Design for Learning; the Special Education and SAT processes—things I needed to know right away,” Butts said.

“Speaking from experience, new teachers—especially those who don’t have a background in education—need training and skills for that first week of school. They need to learn classroom management and curriculum delivery. Later, they can learn more complex pedagogy,” Butts continued. “LEAP teachers have an edge over other alternative licensure programs because we learn how to: 1. manage our kids, which is 80% of the challenge; and 2. we learn how to start delivering curriculum. My first time around teaching, I didn’t have that training and I quit. Then I came back to education, had that support, and I succeeded. I’ve been promoted, and I’m almost done with my Master’s in Education. That’s what you get in LEAP.”

But is the LEAP curriculum actually useful for teachers who aren’t in a traditional classroom? For coaches and physical education teachers? Absolutely, says Butts, particularly since education has moved online in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Even before we moved online, I learned that classroom management was going to be key in P.E.,” Butts said. “There are times when there are three classes in the gym simultaneously. That’s about 90 kids running around in the same room at the same time. If you have no routine and no structure, your class will be out of control. But with the classroom management skills I learned at LEAP, I could start class and the kids could go through the whole routine without me saying a word. Sometimes they were flawless.”

Butts also explained that the backward planning skills he learned in the lesson planning unit have been invaluable in physical education.





“Let’s say we’re going to do a tennis unit. Using the backward planning principles, I can plan each step to lead to the ultimate outcome of playing the game,” Butts explained. “We start with ‘here’s a tennis racket; here’s how you hit a ball; here’s how you return a ball; serve; the rules of the game’. Then it’s me against one student while others watch, then its two students playing each other, then suddenly they’re playing the game.”

Butts said other aspects of the LEAP curriculum have also been useful in physical education. For example, all LEAP teachers are taught the fundamentals of structured literacy programs and how to teach kids how to read across the curriculum in different disciplines. In addition, LEAP teachers also received training in working with students who are diagnosed with dyslexia.

“Physical education is about improving motor skills, but it’s also about improving social skills and cultural awareness,” Butts said. “Our curriculum and the state standards have a lot of things that are social and cultural in nature. My kids have reading and writing assignments in P.E., and we have class discussions about what we’re learning. I don’t have any students who are dyslexic this year, but I’m sure I will in the future, and I know what to do to help struggling readers.”

As a home-grown New Mexico teacher, Butts not only has a vested interest in his community, but his experience in the oil fields has helped him relate both socially and economically to his students and their parents.

“A lot of my students don’t like school because they know they can go to the oil fields. Being out there in the oil fields and making that kind of money, I can talk to those kids and understand what their home life is like and what their values are,” Butts said. “I can relate to them, especially when oil isn’t doing so hot. I can encourage kids to go that route, but also help them understand the value of finishing high school in terms of their future earnings.”

As a participant in two different alternative licensing programs, Butts also has some parting advice for those considering the various pathways into the teaching profession:

“The depth of knowledge I have in my science background is much more valuable in my classroom than knowing all of the research behind educational pedagogy without any application. I know my content area in depth, I just needed to know how to deliver it effectively,” Butts said. “The traditional path—giving teachers textbook research that they regurgitate and write down on a piece of paper—it just doesn’t work that way in the classroom. If you want teachers to stop quitting and getting burned out in their first year, you give them the skills LEAP teaches on day one.”

Tip of the Month

In most workplaces there's a natural inclination towards routine and comfortable work, particularly where the culture is risk averse or doesn't reward innovation. Routine and comfort can be the antithesis of resilience. Think about it, if you're comfortable in your daily routine, even a small interruption or challenge can upset the apple cart. Just like going to the gym helps you build physical muscle, stepping out of your comfort zone every day can help you become more resilient and cultivate inner strength. By empowering yourself outside your usual routine, you're developing skills that will aid you (and your team) when the chips are down.

Calendar of Events

- 2/2 Groundhog's Day
- 2/4 TAP: Educator Resources for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders & Other Needs
- 2/4 Rosa Parks Day
- 2/5 National Wear Red Day Observance
- 2/7 Super Bowl
- 2/9 TAP: Childhood Trauma and Effects on Social Emotional and Academic Growth
- 2/10 TAP: Engaging the Student in the Virtual Environment
- 2/11 TAP: Educator Resources for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders & Other Needs
- 2/11-13 NMSBA Board Institute
- 2/12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 2/12 Chinese New Year
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/15 Presidents' Day
- 2/16 TAP: Documentation in a Remote World
- 2/16-19 NMSBO Winter Conference, Virtual
- 2/17 TAP: The Core Model of Social Emotional Learning-The Brain & Self-Regulation Prek-5th Grade
- 2/17 Ash Wednesday
- 2/18 Last Day to introduce legislation – NM Legislature
- 2/18 TAP: Dyslexia and A Structured Literacy Approach to Teaching Reading
- 2/22 Washington's Birthday
- 2/23 TAP: Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Responsible Decision Making
- 2/25 TAP: Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Self-Regulation, Mutual/Co-Regulation

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						



Procurement News

Year in Review

Over 750 contracts were awarded in 2020 for use by our membership. Seventy percent were with New Mexico vendors. In Fiscal year 2020, \$321M was the volume of member spending using CES contracts. We are appreciative of our membership, as their use of our services allows us to pour resources into our assistance to New Mexico's schools, ultimately benefitting the children! Muchisimas Gracias!

Contract Expirations

<p>RFP 2017-006 Digital Document Management System* Professional Document Systems, Inc. Real Time Solutions PCS Revenue Control Systems, Inc.</p> <p>RFP 2017-014 LOT 6 –Seating, Music Stands, Conductor Equipment LOT 7 –Storage Wenger Corporation Contrax Furniture</p> <p>RFP 2017-017 Public Safety Fire Fighter Equipment, Supplies, Materials and Related* L.N.Curtis</p> <p><i>*contract extended – see next section</i></p>

New Contract Awards

<p>RFP 2021-19 Computers & Peripherals (Hardware, Software) & Related Services</p> <p>Category 1 - Computers & Peripherals</p>	<p>Advanced Network Management Ambitions Technology Group Ardham Technologies DHE Computer Systems Education Technologies Holmans USA IT Connect J-Mar & Associates Netsync Network Solutions PC Specialists (Technology Integration Group)</p>	<p>Plan B Networks ProVelocity Riverside Technologies, Inc. Systems MD Troxell Communications Twotrees Technologies VLCM (Valcom)</p>
<p>RFP 2021-19 Computers & Peripherals (Hardware, Software) & Related Services</p> <p>Category 2 – Networking Equipment</p>	<p>Advanced Network Management Ambitions Technology Group Ardham Technologies DHE Computer Systems Education Technologies Holmans USA IT Connect J-Mar & Associates Netsync Network Solutions</p>	<p>PC Specialists (Technology Integration Group) Plan B Networks ProVelocity Riverside Technologies, Inc. Systems MD Twotrees Technologies VLCM (Valcom)</p>
<p>RFP 2021-21 Copiers, Printers, MD Equipment and Managed Print Services</p>	<p>Albuquerque Image Products Dahill Office Technology Corp. ImageNet Consulting</p>	<p>Southwest Copy Systems, Inc. VLCM (Valcom, Salt Lake City)</p>



**Temporary
(90-day)
Contract Extensions**

RFP 2017-006 Digital Document Management Systems Expires 4/13/2021.
PCS Revenue Control Systems, Inc.
Professional Document Systems, Inc.
Real Time Solutions

RFP 2017-017 Public Safety Fire Fighter Equipment, Supplies, Materials and Related Expires 4/30/2021.
L.N.Curtis

Ongoing Solicitations

RFP #	RFP Description	Release	Pre-Prop	Due
2021-19 Tabulations + Award	<i>Computers & Peripherals (Hardware, Software)</i> (eProc is being debugged as we progress)	11/16	11/18	12/14
2021-21 Tabulations + Award	<i>Copiers, Printers, MDFs Products & Related Services + Managed Printing Services</i> (eProc is being debugged as we progress)	11/16	11/18	12/14
2021-23 (21.5)	<i>AEPA eRate Consulting Services</i>	1/18		2/18
2021-21	<i>IT Professional Services</i>	1/20/21	1/26/21	2/4/21
2021-24	<i>Music, Performing Arts & Related</i>	1/20/21	1/26/21	2/4/21
2021-26	<i>Fire Turnout Equipment</i>	1/20/21	1/26/21	2/4/21

WE HAVE MOVED!

CES Mailing: PO Box 81045, Albuquerque, NM 87198

CES Location: 10601 Research Road SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123



Remember!
Technical Assistance Program (TAP)
Hot Topic On-Demand Library Pre-recorded Webinars
are available at
www.cestap.org.



Winter Conference

Events » Winter Conference

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2021 Virtual Winter Conference

When: February 16-19, 2021

Where: Virtual Platform & Zoom

This virtual will be accessible through our Connect platform my.nmasbo.org.

[Registration is open register now!](#)

www.nmasbo.org/page/winter





NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
2021 Virtual Board Member Institute Conference
February 10 - 13, 2021

REGISTRATION FORM

Billing Address:

School District: _____
Submitted by: _____
Title: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

A confirmation passcode to attend the event will be emailed to registered attendees before the event.

Conference Fees:

Association Members: Reduced price of **\$100.00** per person. A purchase order is considered payment.

Purchase Order #: _____
(Attach copy of P.O.)

ATTENDEES NAMES
(please print)

1. Name: _____
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3. Name: _____
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5. Name: _____
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Title: _____
Email: _____

Cancellations & Refund Policy, Disclaimers,

- 100% refund if registration is canceled **in writing**, by February 3, 2021.
- A confirmation passcode to attend the event will be emailed to registered attendees before the event.
- NMSBA reserves the right to refuse registration for any event to any member or non-member for reasons it deems appropriate.
- NMSBA reserves the right to ask any attendee to leave its event due to unbecoming conduct. In the event an attendee is asked to leave, registration fee will not be refunded. NMSBA is not responsible for any related expenses, loss of training, or negligence arising from an attendee's behavior.

Questions regarding event registration should be directed to Carolyn Mole, NMSBA Finance Director. Registration form & Purchase Order should be emailed to: cmole@nmsba.org





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