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LCPS Electrician Honored by NEA

Following in the footsteps of six of his fellow CSEC-Las Cruces Union colleagues, **Joseph Leonard Almaguer** was honored as NEA-New Mexico's Education Support Professional (ESP) of the Year at the annual delegate Council held in Albuquerque on November 5, 2011.

He has worked as an electrician for LCPS for twelve years in the Physical Plant Department. Starting as a custodian with LCPS for three years, Joseph then moved to Grounds maintenance for another three years before enrolling at Dona Ana Branch to study to be an electrician. Earning a 4.0GPA, he is currently holds his journeyman's license and is well on his way to becoming a master electrician.

As driven as he has been to excel in his career, Joseph is just as dedicated to his advocacy on behalf of his Union colleagues in CSEC. He was instrumental in organizing over 85% of his colleagues in the Physical Plant Department (PPD) for Collective Bargaining in just three weeks and now serves as the Vice –President for PPD. He represents them at the negotiations sessions as well as in employee rights matters and is now honing his skills as an NEA ESP leader in a national skills building program for which he was chosen.

His work ethic and dedication are lauded not just by his fellow CSEC members but by his supervisor at PPD and the Mayfield High School administrators and coaches where Joseph volunteers as a Varsity Baseball coach. His nomination included this citation: "He presents himself as a leader and an excellent role model. He not only coaches the students, he teaches them the values they will use the rest of their lives."