

Governor Bill Richardson Renames State Library Building In Honor Of Former Governor Garrey Carruthers

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today renamed the State Library building in Santa Fe in honor of former Governor Garrey Carruthers. The building, located at 1205 Camino Carlos Rey in Santa Fe, will now be known as "The Garrey Carruthers State Library Building". Governor Richardson and Governor Carruthers were joined at this morning's ceremony by a host of dignitaries, including many former co-workers and staff members from the Carruthers Administration.

Governor Richardson's prepared remarks:

"I am very pleased to be here today to officially rename the New Mexico State Library Building in honor of former Governor Garrey Carruthers.

There is no New Mexican more deserving of such an honor, and no building more appropriate to name for Governor Carruthers, than the State Library. It's a place of learning, history, knowledge and imagination - all things close to Governor Carruthers' heart. A library is also the foundation of education, perhaps his greatest passion, and the driving force in his life. He was a key reason we were able to pass the two constitutional amendments implementing true education reform in New Mexico. You know, Governor Carruthers was the first to be known as the "Education Governor"... I'm hoping to share that title with him, if he'll let me.

Native New Mexican Garrey Carruthers embodies the pursuit, and realization of the American Dream. He grew up, in his words, "very poor" in Cedar Hill, and then Aztec, New Mexico. The future Governor found politics at an early age as Student Council President, and with incredible foresight, his class selected him as the boy most likely to succeed.

Governor Carruthers studied agriculture at New Mexico State University, and earned a Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics, and a Ph.D. in Economics at Iowa State University. He then returned to NMSU to teach. But politics came knocking again, and Garrey was called upon by President Gerald Ford to serve as a White House Fellow, and named by President Reagan to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

He returned to New Mexico to run for Governor in 1986- his first attempt at elected office- and he won. I didn't even win my first try. In the process, Governor Carruthers became the first Republican Governor in New Mexico in 16 years. In his trademark candid style, he described his time as Governor as "the most fun he ever had with his clothes on".

After leaving office, Garrey Carruthers became an successful entrepreneur, founding the Cimarron Health Plan. Starting with 170 doctors and 4,000 members, Cimarron has grown into one of New Mexico's key H-M-O's, with nearly 150-thousand plan members. Of course, Cimarron is a major partner with the state through *Salud!* New Mexico's Medicaid managed care program. The company's gross revenues are expected to be nearly 150-million dollars this year.

And now, Governor Carruthers' career has come full circle. He's back at NMSU as Dean of the College of Business Administration and Economics, guiding the future entrepreneurs and leaders of New Mexico. What a tremendous hire for the University- what a great thing for NMSU students- what a great thing for New Mexico.

Please join me in congratulating, and thanking Governor Carruthers, as I officially designate this building **the Garrey E. Carruthers State Library Building.**"