

State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON APPOINTS NEW UNIVERSITY REGENTS

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today announced the appointments of university regents, and challenged them to carry his message that higher education is an integral part of his agenda to create high-wage jobs and improve every New Mexican’s quality of life.

“I’ve said over and over that education and job creation are my top priorities as governor,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “There’s no doubt that higher education is the engine that will drive economic development in New Mexico. Whether we’re talking about workforce training, job development programs, high-tech research, agriculture product development and medical research, higher education is the key to achieving a stronger state economy.”

Governor Bill Richardson named new regents to each of the governing boards of New Mexico’s colleges and universities, including four new regents for the University of New Mexico. There are 114,000 students at 25 campuses statewide. The economic impact of higher education in New Mexico is about \$3.9 billion – a staggering amount that we have not fully utilized to create high-wage jobs.

“I am also counting on university faculty to generate new ideas, processes and technologies designed to boost New Mexico’s economy. We must link academic programs, research programs and workforce training programs to the emerging ‘new economy.’”

Governor Bill Richardson said he will challenge educators at New Mexico’s colleges and universities to join with him and the state’s business leaders to tackle the major issues that he outlined during his State of the State address on Tuesday.

“I want to work with educators to help me recruit, train and retain teachers and healthcare professionals. I want the universities to focus on training New Mexico residents for high-tech and high-wage jobs. I want the best minds helping me to address the state’s water crisis. Finally, I am depending on universities to help develop a seamless, K-16 education system.”

As part of the governor's plan to tie higher education to economic development, he is proposing the creation of endowed chairs for each of New Mexico's three research universities. The governor wants the state to pitch in \$9 million -- \$3 million for each university -- to pay for the chairs. He is counting on business leaders and private foundations to join with us in this innovative public-private partnership by contributing \$6 million.

"I know of no state with an effective economic development strategy that doesn't link economic development to its higher education system," Governor Bill Richardson said.

Governor Bill Richardson said his commitment to higher education is not limited to his appointments to the boards of regents. The governor has proposed a state budget that calls for a 3 percent pay increase for university faculty, and he intends to appoint a faculty member to serve on the state Commission on Higher Education, resulting in a broader base of influence over higher-education issues.

"I am asking the people who work in universities and colleges to keep their end of the deal," Governor Bill Richardson said. "And I am prepared to keep my end of the deal. I will support our educators, fight for higher salaries and welcome them with open arms as I work to solve the problems we need to overcome if we want to build a strong economy."

Here are the new regents:

University of New Mexico

1. James H. Koch, of Santa Fe, is a graduate of the University of New Mexico. Koch is also the outgoing chairman of the state Democratic Party. He has served on the Alumni Association and served on the board of directors of the Lobo Club. As a member of the Letterman's Alumni Club, Koch helped refurbish Hodgin Hall. He has also contributed time and money to the university and its medical school. Koch is president of Daniels Insurance in Santa Fe.
2. Donald Salazar is a lawyer in Santa Fe. He earned his law degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1972. He was a law clerk for the New Mexico Supreme Court before starting a career as a lawyer concentrating in administrative and regulatory law. He is an active member of several bar associations, including the New Mexico Bar Association and the Hispanic Bar Association. He is president of the 1st Judicial District Bar Association. Salazar has served on numerous civic and cultural organizations in Santa Fe, including the Museum of New Mexico Foundation, El Rancho de Las Golondrinas Museum, Santa Fe Economic Development Inc. Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce, United Way and the board of directors for First National Bank of Santa Fe.
3. Maria Griego-Raby, of Albuquerque, is president and principal of Contract Associates, Inc., a commercial and office furniture company in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Los Alamos. Griego-Raby earned her Masters of Business Administration from the University in 1986. She has earned several awards during her career. Most recently, she was named to the Hispanic Business Top 500 List and the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce Maxie Anderson Small Business Award in 2002. She is the past president of the UNM Alumni Association.
4. Andrea Cook will serve as the student regent. Cook earned her Bachelor's degree in communications and journalism with a concentration in public relations. She is pursuing her

Master's of Business Administration. She is the past president of the UNM student body. She currently works as a sales representative for Merck Company Inc.

New Mexico State University

1. Bob Gallagher, of Rio Rancho, is president of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association. Gallagher earned his Bachelor's Degree from New Mexico State University in 1977. He served as city manager in Hobbs for eight years, and he was senior adviser on energy matters for then-U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson. Gallagher is a member of the NMSU Alumni Association.
2. Steve Anaya, the mayor pro-tem of the Moriarty City Council, is the state director of New Mexico Fannie Mae Partnership Office. Anaya earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from New Mexico State University. He is the former state director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program. He also served as manager of the New Mexico State Fair. Anaya is partner in two family businesses – Holiday Inn Express and El Comedor de Anaya's Restaurant in Moriarty.
3. Felicia Ybarra will serve as the student regent. Ybarra is pursuing a Bachelor's of Science Degree in hotel, restaurant and tourism management. She is a graduate of Las Cruces High School. She currently works as a student assistant in the Office of Assistant to the President at NMSU.

Eastern New Mexico University

1. Alva Carter owns a car dealership in Portales. He also works as a farmer, educator and dairyman.
2. Jay Gurley, of Clovis, is director of corporate communications at ENMR-Plateau Telecommunications. Gurley is also president emeritus of Clovis Community College, where he spent 18 years as an administrator. Gurley also worked as an associate professor and director of the School of Education at Eastern New Mexico University.
3. Tracey Henderson will serve as the student regent.

Western New Mexico University

1. Tony Trujillo, is a native of Silver City who graduated from Western New Mexico University in 1975 with a Bachelor's degree in business administration. Trujillo is currently director of government relations for Phelps Dodge Mining Company. He is chair of New Mexico First. He has served on several boards, including the Economic Development Commission, Border Authority and the Mine Safety Advisory Board.
2. Bud Davis, of Corrales, is a retired professor and chancellor emeritus at Louisiana State University. Davis has 50 years experience in public education, including seven years as president and professor at the University of New Mexico. He also served as an educator and administrator at the University of Colorado, Idaho State University and Oregon State University. He was a U.S. Marine Corps officer and served the country during the Korean War.
3. Sharon Zuniga will serve as the university's student regent. Zuniga is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in the science of sociology with a minor in political science.

New Mexico Highlands University

1. Walter Adams, of Las Vegas, is an area maintenance superintendent for the state Highway and Transportation Department. Adams also serves as the chairman of the West Las Vegas Board of Education.
2. Mari-Luci Jaramillo, of Albuquerque, is an education consultant. Jaramillo has a PhD in curriculum and instruction from the University of New Mexico. She earned her bachelors and masters degrees from New Mexico Highlands University. She is a former American Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras.
3. John Loehr, of Montezuma, was re-appointed to serve as a regent at New Mexico Highlands University.
4. Michael Saavedra, of Las Vegas, will serve as a student regent. Saavedra graduated magna cum laude from Highlands in 2002. He is pursuing his Masters in Business Administration.
5. Mike Messina is an Albuquerque lawyer. He is also a developer. He got his law degree from Yale Law School.

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

1. Jerry Armijo is a lawyer from Socorro. Armijo earned his law degree from the University of New Mexico. He has served on the Commission on Higher Education for more than five years, including chairman of the commission for the past 1 ½ years.
2. Richard Carpenter, of Santa Fe, is a retired lawyer. The graduate of Yale Law School has practiced law in New Mexico for 40 years.
3. Isaiah Storey will serve as a student regent.

Northern New Mexico Community College

1. Michael Branch, of Santa Fe, is president of the Northern New Mexico Community College Foundation. He is a former Santa Fe city councilor.
2. Dennis Salazar is an Espanola businessman. He was one of the founders of the Northern New Mexico Community College. He served on the college's first board of regents.