

State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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**GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON NAMES VIRGINIA TRUJILLO AS
EDUCATION ADVISOR**

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today introduced Virginia Trujillo, a respected educator and former president of the state Board of Education, as his education adviser. Ms. Trujillo will immediately help the governor with the education agenda he has proposed to the state Legislature.

“Virginia will play a valuable role in my administration as I move forward with my agenda to reform public schools,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “She brings the broadest range of experience possible to the Administration.

“My education plan is bold. It’s time that we require more accountability, raise standards, increase graduation rates, raise teacher salaries and change the law to allow for a Secretary of Education. The governor should be, and I will be, held accountable for results. My education package is the second leg of my economic development package. And both need to pass the Legislature as quickly as possible.

“Virginia will help me as I pursue a 6 percent pay raise for teachers, create a Secretary of Education and shift 5 percent of their non-classroom spending into classrooms where the money belongs.

As the governor’s education advisor, Virginia Trujillo will be Governor Bill Richardson’s liaison to the education community – in New Mexico and nationally. Governor Bill Richardson is required each year to ensure that New Mexico is meeting the requirements included in the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Virginia Trujillo will be the governor’s point person charged with making sure the state is complying with that law.

“I thank the governor for having confidence in me to help him implement his vision for education in New Mexico,” Trujillo said. “I believe that education is the cornerstone of good economic development in the state because with a highly trained workforce, we can attract high-wage industries to New Mexico.”

Trujillo, who earned her Master's degree in Secondary and Adult Education from the University of New Mexico, has vast experience working at all levels of public education. She worked in several capacities at Albuquerque Public Schools and Rio Rancho Public Schools. Most recently, Trujillo has been a partner and owner in Trujillo, Ethelbah & Lawrence, LLC, an education and governmental consulting firm.

Trujillo served for 12 years on the state Board of Education. She was president for four of those years. She also served on governing board of Albuquerque Technical-Vocational Institute. During her tenure at TVI, the Workforce Development Center was planned and built.

During her career, Trujillo has also served on several boards and commissions at the state and federal level. She has lobbied on behalf of education reform in the New Mexico Legislature and in the U.S. Congress.

“One of the things I liked most about Virginia is that she has experience both in public education and in workforce development,” Governor Bill Richardson said. She knows first-hand that a state's education system must be linked to economic development efforts.”