

## Governor Bill Richardson Appoints Don Chalmers to New Mexico Commission on Higher Education Announces Nationwide Search for Executive Director

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson has appointed Rio Rancho businessman and community leader Don Chalmers to serve on the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE). Chalmers will serve a six-year term on the CHE.

“I am committed to the continued development of accessible, high-quality higher education programs that enhance state growth and the quality of life for all New Mexicans,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “Don Chalmers will be a tremendous asset to the Commission on Higher Education. His extensive experience and success as a businessman, combined with his passion for community involvement, make him an ideal advocate for higher education in New Mexico.”

The CHE has financial oversight responsibilities for all public post-secondary institutions in the state, including three research universities, three comprehensive universities, eight community colleges, nine university branch community colleges, three special schools, and one instructional center. The Commission is also charged with oversight of all private post-secondary educational institutions operating within the state.

Chalmers is the owner of Don Chalmers Ford in Rio Rancho, and is very active in the Rio Rancho and Albuquerque communities. He is a member of the board of the University of New Mexico Foundation, the Albuquerque Community Foundation, Albuquerque Economic Development Inc., and other community organizations. A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Chalmers earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Marketing from Oklahoma State University. He relocated to New Mexico seven years ago.

Governor Richardson also announced the state has launched a nationwide search for an Executive Director for the CHE. The Executive Director serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the CHE, and works with the Commission to create and implement policies designed to achieve the goals of post-secondary education in New Mexico. Part of the posted job description reads:

“The candidate shall possess an excellent academic, business, and/or administrative background, be a respected and effective leader, have strong communication and interpersonal skills, and be familiar with the process of state government. The candidate shall have the knowledge necessary to provide leadership to the Commission in meeting the range of state post-secondary needs, including the educational needs of rural New Mexico.”