

## **Governor Bill Richardson Names Three New Mexicans to Commission on Higher Education**

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today named Gerald Burke, Ph.D., of Las Cruces, Thomas J. Meyer, Ph.D., of Los Alamos, and Mike Martin of Lordsburg to the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education.

“I am pleased to appoint these very qualified individuals to the C.H.E., and look forward to their contributions toward improving and strengthening our institutions of higher learning,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “They understand that our colleges, tech schools and universities are key to New Mexico’s economic development and the foundation of my plan to build a high-wage economy and develop a well-trained, qualified workforce.”

Dr. Burke is currently President Emeritus of the New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation and Vice President Emeritus of New Mexico State University. He received a B.S. in Animal Production and an M.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Wyoming, and was awarded a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Burke was appointed to complete an un-expired term for an at-large seat on the C.H.E. His appointment will expire July 1, 2006.

Thomas J. Meyer of Los Alamos, currently Associate Director for Strategic Research for Los Alamos National Laboratory. He holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Ohio University and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Stanford University. Meyer has published over 500 papers, holds three patents, and is a world-renowned chemist. He served as professor at the University of North Carolina for more than 30 years. Meyer was appointed to the District 10 seat on the C.H.E. His term will expire July 1, 2009.

Mike Martin of Lordsburg, currently Community Banker at Western Bank in Lordsburg. He holds a B.A. in Economics and Agriculture from Texas A&M University, and is active with the Hidalgo Chamber of Commerce and other economic development organizations. Martin will complete an un-expired term for District 6. His appointment will expire July 1, 2005.

The C.H.E.’s mission is to promote and coordinate high quality post-secondary education partnerships that are responsive to changing needs and serve all New Mexicans. It is the lead agency in Governor Richardson’s initiative to reform and strengthen colleges and vocational schools, to establish curriculum and courses of study to match our future employment needs, to support cutting-edge research in renewable energy, technology, agriculture, and homeland security, and establish our colleges and universities as national leaders in these critical fields.