

Governor Bill Richardson Appoints Benny Shendo, Jr., as New Mexico Secretary of Indian Affairs

For Immediate Release
Shipley
April 20, 2004

Contact: Pahl
505.476.2202

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today announced he has appointed Benny Shendo, Jr. as the New Mexico Secretary of Indian Affairs. Secretary-designate Shendo is a native of Jemez Pueblo, and currently serves as Senior Manager for Native American Programs, in the Office of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of New Mexico. He will take over his new duties May 1.

“Benny Shendo’s background and experience make him uniquely qualified to lead the Department of Indian Affairs,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “Born and raised on Jemez Pueblo, he will bring his vast personal experience and his dedication to education to the Office of Secretary. Shendo is also committed to working with the Nation’s Tribes and Pueblos to strengthen our government-to-government relations.”

At UNM, Mr. Shendo is the primary contact between the University and New Mexico’s twenty-two tribes. Previously, he served as Assistant Dean of Students and Director of the American Indian and Alaska Native Program at Stanford University, Director of the Native American Program for the UNM College of Engineering, and Director of College Programs for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) in Boulder, CO.

In 1998 and 2002, Secretary-designate Shendo served as the 2nd Lieutenant and 1st Lieutenant Governor, respectively, for the Pueblo of Jemez. He is a Fellow of the W.K. Kellogg National Leadership Program, Group XVI, 1997-2000. He was co-founder of the San Diego Riverside School, Inc. (K-8) in Jemez Pueblo, which became the first Charter School on an Indian Reservation in the State of New Mexico. The school recently received its approval for another five years to operate as a Charter School.

#30#