



## **State of New Mexico** *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

### **Governor Bill Richardson Appoints Task Force to Evaluate and Improve Higher Education in New Mexico**

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*Santa Fe* - Governor Bill Richardson today announced the formation of the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education, a diverse group of 30 New Mexicans who will tackle a tough agenda to help improve higher education in New Mexico.

"My charge to this task force is direct and daunting," said Governor Richardson. "The task force will help me ensure New Mexico's college and university students are receiving the best possible education, and help me ensure the one point five billion dollars New Mexico spends annually on higher education is being spent efficiently and effectively."

The goal of the task force is to extend the Governor's education reform initiatives to higher education - New Mexico's colleges and universities - and create a seamless, comprehensive education system, with a strategy for students from K through 16, and ultimately early childhood through graduate school.

Former Governor Toney Anaya will Chair The Governor's Task Force on Higher Education, which includes educators, representatives from the business community, students, and other concerned, committed New Mexicans.

- Task force members will evaluate and expand on the recommendations of the Governor's Progress Agenda (GPA),
- They will develop major strategies to increase efficiency and accountability,

- They will evaluate the role of the Commission on Higher Education, and recommend any necessary changes,
- The task force will examine the roles of two-year, and four year institutions, and determine the effects of their rapid expansion into communities across the state, and
- Members will look at tuition rates, financial aid opportunities, and evaluate the higher education funding formula.
- At Governor Richardson’s direction, the Commission on Higher Education has already begun an in-depth look at ways to build on the success of the Lottery Scholarship Program. The task force will evaluate the CHE findings, and look for ways to expand Lottery Scholarship opportunities for New Mexicans, including low-income students.

“This is a bold, broad agenda,” Governor Richardson added. “But it is absolutely necessary if we are to create a system of education, and higher education that is able to make sure graduating high school students are prepared for college, make sure that every student has the opportunity to attend college, and make sure that every college student has the best possible opportunity to *graduate*.”

The Task Force will report their findings and recommendations to the Governor by December 1.

## **Governor’s Task Force in Higher Education Members**

Governor Toney Anaya - Chairman  
 Beverlee McClure - Vice Chair  
 Gerald Peters - Vice Chair  
 Veronica Garcia  
 Jackie Riggs  
 Terri Cole  
 Kathy Allen  
 Carolyn Monroe  
 Don Chalmers  
 Elmer Salazar  
 Bill Garcia  
 Tony Trujillo  
 Chuck Montano  
 Letitia Chambers  
 Susan McGuire  
 Miriam Meyer  
 John Loehr  
 Richard Peck  
 Franz Renz  
 Bob Moulton  
 Lawrence Lattman  
 Kathy Beardon  
 Matthew Padilla  
 Della Warrior  
 Joe Abeyta

Joe Sando  
Andrea Cook  
Michael Saavedra  
Anne Uhring  
Van Romero

#30#