



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson names Businessman Don Chalmers to UNM Board of Regents

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced the appointment of Rio Rancho businessman Don Chalmers to serve on the University of New Mexico Board of Regents.

Chalmers, owner of Don Chalmers Ford in Rio Rancho and a former member of the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education, will fill the seat being vacated by Doug Brown, who was appointed last month by Governor Richardson to serve as interim State Treasurer.

“Don Chalmers is a leader in the business community, and he understands the challenges we must overcome to transform our higher education system so that all New Mexicans are prepared for the workforce,” Governor Bill Richardson. “Don Chalmers knows firsthand that higher education is the engine that drivers our efforts to build a high-wage economy and move New Mexico forward.”

Chalmers is active in the UNM community. His auto dealership provides several college scholarships each year, including the UNM Presidential Scholarship. He currently serves as Vice Chairman of the UNM Foundation, a nonprofit organization in charge of private fund-raising for the university. The Foundation recently announced a record \$43.5 million was raised for the school. Chalmers also serves on the University of New Mexico Hospital Clinical Operations Board.

Chalmers also serves on several boards in Albuquerque and Rio Rancho dealing with education, health care, economic development and community service. He has been active in the Albuquerque and Rio Rancho chambers of commerce, as well as the statewide chamber, the Association of Commerce and Industry.

Governor Richardson recently announced plans to work with the Legislature to invest at least \$50 million in a College Affordability endowment that will generate money to provide need-based scholarships for thousands of New Mexicans.

“I am counting on business leaders and private foundations to join with us in this innovative effort to provide more opportunities for New Mexicans to earn degrees and join the workforce,” Governor Richardson said. “I expect our regents, including Don Chalmers, to play a key role in lining up private support for this endowment.”