



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Commission on Higher Education Executive Director leaves post

SANTA FE -- Dr. Letitia Chambers, Executive Director of the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education, left her position following the end of the recent legislative session. Dr. Chambers informed Governor Bill Richardson of her decision earlier this year, citing personal and financial reasons for her resignation, but agreed at the governor's request to stay through the legislative session.

"I returned to New Mexico in order to be part of the Richardson administration and to initiate needed improvements in higher education," Chambers said. "Unfortunately, I must return to Florida, and focus my attention on rebuilding my home and rental properties, which received extensive damage during last year's hurricane."

Governor Richardson said Chambers helped move higher education forward and helped develop the Governor's plan to bring more accountability to our colleges and universities.

"Letitia Chambers understands the critical link between higher education and creating high-wage jobs," Governor Bill Richardson said. "Under her leadership, we have made great strides in reaching our goal of extending opportunities to more New Mexicans who want to attend our colleges and universities."

Dr. Chambers made progress in improving articulation for students who transfer among public institutions through instituting a common course numbering system. She also authored a major study on improving student success.

Dr. Chambers said she was particularly gratified with the movement to create the new college affordability scholarship program and the performance funding initiative. Both programs are being considered by the Legislature.

Chambers came to the Commission from Washington DC where she had a distinguished career in the development of national public policy. After serving in Government, Dr. Chambers founded and served as CEO of Chambers Associates Inc., which was acquired in 2001 by Navigant Consulting. She continued to serve Navigant as Managing Director before relocating to Santa Fe to begin her duties at the Commission. Her consulting practice was focused on tax, financial and fiscal policy, education and healthcare, among other issues. Dr. Chambers will eventually return to Navigant Consulting.

Dr. Chambers also serves as a Trustee of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. She said she will continue to serve the Institute and other educational and charitable organizations in the state on a pro bono basis.

Deputy Director Kathy Cantrell will serve as Acting Director of the Commission on Higher Education.

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