



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

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Economic Development Department  
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### **Governor Bill Richardson Appoints New Members and Chairperson to Economic Development Commission**

*Mark Lautman Appointed New Chair*

*Carol Robertson-Lopez of Santa Fe and Joseph Semprevivo of Deming Join  
nine-member board*

SANTA FE—Governor Bill Richardson announced today that Joseph Semprevivo and Carol Robertson-Lopez are the new members of the Economic Development Commission. Current member Mark Lautman is the new Commission chair.

“I am very pleased that these three leaders in entrepreneurship, government, and economic development are moving New Mexico forward through their work on the Economic Development Commission,” stated Governor Richardson.

The Economic Development Commission is administratively attached to the Economic Development Department. Comprised of nine members representing both political parties, the Commission advises the department on policy matters and helps create New Mexico’s five-year economic development plan. Members are appointed by the governor and approved by the senate.

Carol Robertson-Lopez represents District 4 on the Santa Fe City Council and is Mayor Pro Tempore of Santa Fe. “I am honored to be a part of the governor’s team,” said Robertson-Lopez. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me and I look forward to continuing to work with the Santa Fe economic development community to improve our economy and job opportunities.”

Joseph Semprevivo is the president and CEO of Joseph's Lite Cookies, makers of snacks for diabetics and health-conscious consumers. Based in Deming, the cookies are sold in about 40 countries worldwide.

"I started our little cookie company with my parents almost 20 years ago because there were almost no alternative products for diabetics like me," said Semprevivo. "Clearly, the idea has taken off, and it's exciting to see Governor Richardson and the State of New Mexico give this nod to the leaders of small, entrepreneurial businesses. I look forward to contributing my perspective to the Economic Development Commission."

Mark Lautman is the newly appointed chair of the Commission. He's an economic developer with experience in several regions of New Mexico. His resume includes leading Rio Rancho's economic development efforts, developing the border community of Santa Teresa, and consulting for Albuquerque's new industrial park, Mesa del Sol.

"It is my goal to bring a breadth of perspective to the Commission," stated Lautman. "Economic Development is key to increasing New Mexico's quality of life, and I'm proud to contribute to this effort."

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