



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Contact: Michael

505-476-3747

Governor Bill Richardson Announces Stuart Paisano as New Assistant Secretary of Economic Development

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today announced the hiring of Stuart Paisano as the state’s new Assistant Secretary of the Economic Development Department.

“I am pleased that Stuart has agreed to join my administration to continue our push to diversify New Mexico’s economy,” said Governor Richardson. “Stuart has the qualifications, ability and drive to work with Secretary Fred Mondragon and the Economic Development Department in our continuing efforts to attract high-tech industries that will keep bringing good jobs to New Mexico.”

Paisano, who is currently President and CEO of Paisano & Associates, a business development consulting firm, replaces former EDD Assistant Secretary Eric Griego.

“Former Governor Paisano brings vast business development and managerial experience to the Economic Development Department,” said Cabinet Secretary Fred Mondragon. “I have every confidence that having him on-board will diversify and enhance our ability to continue to strengthen New Mexico’s economy in every corner of the state.”

Paisano served as Governor of the Pueblo of Sandia for seven years – the youngest person ever to serve in that capacity – and, more recently, as Assistant General Manager of Operations at Sandia Resort & Casino.

“I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with Governor Richardson and Secretary Mondragon to expand economic development in New Mexico,” said Paisano. “I look forward to applying my experience in and proven strategies for business development on a statewide level.”

Summary of Qualifications

Mr. Paisano served as a Deputy First Class with the Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Department, where his responsibilities included proper investigation of fatal motor vehicle accidents within the County of Bernalillo, traffic law enforcement, DWI law enforcement and all other duties assigned as a traffic investigator/enforcement officer. Mr. Paisano successfully established working methods of communication between the community and the Sheriff’s Department, while assigned to the C.O.P.S Unit.

As Governor of the Pueblo of Sandia, Mr. Paisano was responsible for oversight of the day-to-day business operations of the Sandia Pueblo Enterprises, which consists of the Tribal Administration, Sandia Resort and Casino, Bien Mur Indian Market Center, Sandia Lakes and Travel Center. His managerial duties included the direction of 38 department managers and more than 2,000 employees. As a tribal leader and representative, responsibilities also include media and public relations spokesperson, political advocate, government representative, and a permanent member of the tribal governing body. In 2003, Mr. Paisano successfully completed the transfer of 10,000 acres of Forest Service Land to the Pueblo of Sandia by providing testimony to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee and the Senate Indian Affairs Committees. The land transfer ended a 23 year dispute over the ownership of the west face of the Sandia Mountains.

Mr. Paisano’s duties as Assistant General Manager of Operations of Sandia Resort & Casino included the development of company wide business plans and budgets in compliance with the goals and objectives of Sandia Resort & Casino and the Pueblo of Sandia. Mr. Paisano served as liaison between Resort and Casino employees to the Chief Operating Officer, in addition to Tribal Council and various political communities throughout the United States. Ultimately, he ensured all guests needs exceed expectations. Additionally, Mr. Paisano was responsible for the development of future expansion plans for various enterprises located at the Resort property. Mr. Paisano had complete oversight of the 228-room resort, including its convention center and all other facilities, and Management Information Systems (MIS) department.

Relevant Experience

- Paisano & Associates, LLC (1/06– present), President/CEO
- Sandia Resort & Casino, Assistant General Manager of Operations (1/06 – 2/07)
- Pueblo of Sandia (1/00 – 1/06), Governor
- Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Department (11/93 - 1/00) Deputy First Class

Boards and Memberships

- Pueblo of Sandia Tribal Council, lifetime member
- Explora! – Board Member
- New Mexico Heart Foundation – Board Member

- CNM Foundation – Board Member
- Appleseed Education Foundation – Board Member
- New Mexico First - Board Member

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