



For immediate release
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Governor Bill Richardson Appoints New Regents at NMHU, NNMC

SANTA FE-Governor Bill Richardson today announced the appointments of Jesus L. Lopez and Nancy R. Long to the New Mexico Highlands Board of Regents. Governor Richardson also appointed Cecille J. Martinez-Wechsler to serve on the Northern New Mexico College Board of Regents and reappointed Regent Michael Branch to the Board.

“Keeping our colleges and universities top-notch and competitive with the rest of the country is my continued goal with these appointments,” Governor Richardson said. “I’m confident that these regents will hold their schools accountable to increase graduate rates and prepare students for high-wage jobs.”

New Mexico Highlands

Jesus Lopez is private-practice attorney in Las Vegas. During his 30-year law career he has served as counsel for three Highlands University presidents and also served one term as District Attorney for the 4th Judicial District.

Lopez graduated from New Mexico Highlands in 1972 with a B.A. in Political Science and Spanish. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico Law School in 1975.

Nancy Long is a partner in the Santa Fe law firm Long, Pound & Komer, P.A. She serves on the City of Santa Fe’s Ethics and Campaign Review Board. She is a former member of the City of Santa Fe Planning Commission and currently serves as the Chair of the Extraterritorial Zoning Commission. She also serves on the Board of the Santa Fe Community Foundation.

Long graduated from Santa Clara University in 1978 with a degree in History and also attended the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. She received her Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico Law School in 1983.

Northern New Mexico College

Cecille Martinez-Wechsler is retired from the Santa Fe Public School District. During her 22 years with the district, she served as a bilingual diagnostician, teacher and

principal. After her retirement she worked as an educational diagnostic consultant for the Santa Fe Public Schools and Santa Fe Indian School.

Martinez-Weschler graduated from Southern Connecticut University in 1974 with a B.S. in Education. She received an M.A. in Learning Disabilities/Educational Diagnosis from the University of New Mexico in 1985 and an Ed. S in Administration from UNM in 1989.

Michael Branch was first appointed to the Northern New Mexico College Board of Regents in January 2003. Branch owns his own commercial real estate business in Santa Fe. He is a former Santa Fe city councilor.