



**2024-2025**

# **PLAN OF ACTION**

**Working to make our city and state a great place to start  
and grow a business and a safe, exciting place to work and  
raise a family**





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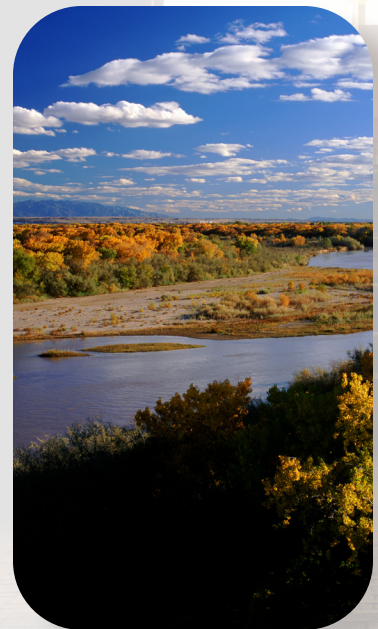


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Dear Investors,

The Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce understands how very special and memorable our corner of the world is. New Mexico is a place that fills you up - from the red or green chile recipes that fill our cravings, to the blazing sunsets that fill our minds, to the multicultural kindness that fills our hearts.


Our goal is to add to our city and state's list of positives you'll see on Page 2 with a welcoming business environment and thriving, diverse economy. We are all New Mexicans — native or transplants — and we want our state to fulfill its potential in every area.

And that means tackling challenges as well as celebrating successes. So as we join together at networking events, travel with our Roadrunners ambassadors across the state to build relationships, develop the next group of civic leaders in our Leadership Albuquerque program and celebrate every groundbreaking, ribbon-cutting and expansion, we also employ a targeted approach to address myriad serious issues head-on that impede a vibrant business climate. Our core advocacy focus continues to be on a persistently high crime rate, poor academic performance in public schools and the need to transform Downtown Albuquerque into a safe and vibrant destination to live, work and play. We proactively and reactively engage our network of government leaders, subject-area experts, GACC Board of Directors and members on issues to find solutions that work for all.

Our work takes us everywhere from City Hall in Albuquerque to the Roundhouse in Santa Fe and Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. It involves multiple approaches that include testifying, writing letters, organizing meetings and sharing information. And at its core it is always about being a steadfast and effective advocate for businesses so they can grow and prosper, thus making our corner of the world a great place to live, work and raise a family. Along with the chile, sunsets and kindness, we love Albuquerque and New Mexico, and we thank you for your investment in the Chamber. Together, we will add to our state's list of positives.

Sincerely,



  
**Del Esparza,**  
Chairman of the Board  
Greater Albuquerque Chamber  
of Commerce



  
**Terri Cole,**  
President and CEO  
Greater Albuquerque  
Chamber of Commerce



# THE CITY WE LOVE

## A DESTINATION CITY

- > More than 6 million visitors to Albuquerque each year
- > Route 66 was named one of the “Coolest Travel Adventures for 2024” (National Geographic, 2024)
- > No. 5 — Top beer destinations in the world in 2024 (VinePair, 2024)
- > No. 2 — “Best Places to Live and Work as a Movie Maker — Big Cities” (MovieMaker Magazine, 2024)
- > No. 57 — “Best Places to Live in 2024” (US News, 2024)
- > No. 4 — “Best Places to Travel on a Budget” (USA Today, 2023)

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

- > Top 50 city for outdoor access and recreation (REI/Trust for Public Land)
- > No. 15 — Park Systems in the United States — 90% of residents live within a walkable half-mile of a park (ParkScore Index, 2024)
- > No. 68 — Best Cities for Outdoor Activities in America (Niche, 2024)
- Rio Grande and its bosque runs through Albuquerque
- > No. 3 — New Mexico is third-best state for camping, as well as ranking No. 4 for having 4,583 species (Adventure on the Rock, 2024)
- > Excellent hiking, biking, camping, skiing and much more!

## CULTURE AND HERITAGE — LIKE NO OTHER PLACE IN AMERICA

- > Founded in 1706 as a Spanish colony
- > New Mexico is home to 23 tribes, pueblos and nations
- > Albuquerque boasts cultural assets like the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and the National Hispanic Cultural Center
- > Majority-minority city, home to 70 ethnic groups
- > Old Town, art, dance and museums — Albuquerque has it all!

## A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

- > Average commute time of just 22 minutes
- > No. 49 America’s Best Cities (Resonance Consultancy, 2024)
- > New Mexico: lowest property taxes in America (Tax Foundation, 2024)

## POPULATION ESTIMATES

562,000 - Albuquerque  
Bernalillo County —  
674,000  
Greater Albuquerque —  
916,000\*

Racial/Ethnic Diversity  
section:

Hispanic: 49.8%  
White: 37.4%  
American Indian, Other  
and Mixed: 19%  
Black: 3.2%  
Asian: 3.1%





# THE CHAMBER'S MISSION:

## A Greater Albuquerque

The Chamber exists to improve our city's quality of life and promote a dynamic, growing economy in the Albuquerque metro area. We believe that when it's easy for businesses to start, grow and thrive, our entire community benefits. Together, we can build an even greater Albuquerque — one that is safe, exciting and full of opportunities for children, residents and workers alike.

### MISSION

Founded in 1917, we work with government, business and community partners to promote and develop a welcoming business environment and thriving, diverse economy in New Mexico.

Our goal is to make our city and state a great place to start and grow a business and a safe exciting place to work and raise a family.

### FOCUS

#### Advocacy

- > A powerful voice on behalf of businesses
- > Driving policy changes — especially in the areas of economic development, public safety, education reform and Downtown transformation
- > Collaboration and engagement at all levels of government

#### Connections

- > Business to Government
- > Business to Business
- > Business to Resources – including critical information, meeting space, trainings and leadership development



### OUR WORK INCLUDES

- > Policy analysis, convening and negotiation
- > Lobbying decision makers
- > Benchmarking and best practices
- > Sector-by-sector business advocacy
- > Events with leaders and experts
- > Networking opportunities
- > Facilitation and coalition-building
- > Education research — school leadership preparation
- > Expansion and replication of high-performing charter schools
- > Strategic public communication on behalf of businesses
- > News and information distribution
- > Promotion and support of our investors
- > Leadership Albuquerque
- > Albuquerque Reads literacy program
- > Issuance of certificates of origin



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GreaterABQ.com



# CHAMBER PRIORITIES, PLANS AND POLICY PROGRESS

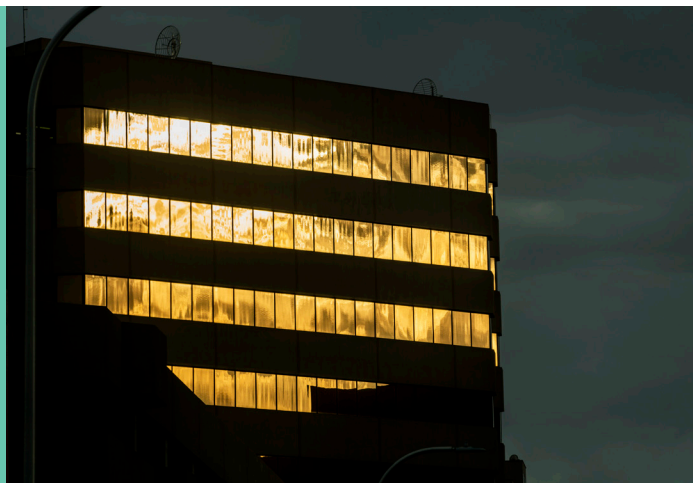
In her annual post-session address to the Chamber, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham urged business leaders to stay focused on public safety issues.

GREATER  
BUQUERQUE  
MBER OF COMMET



# BIGs BOLD ISSUE GROUPS

Chamber policy committees that drive forward a multi-year agenda in three key areas essential to long-term economic growth: transforming Downtown Albuquerque, improving academic achievement in our public schools and reducing crime to make our city a safer and even more welcoming place.



# EDTs ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

Sector-specific groups of Chamber investors, board members, policy experts, trade associations and other partners who meet and mobilize when an opportunity or threat to an economic sector arises; the coalition's goals range from impacting public policy decisions (at all levels of government) to encouraging innovation and workforce development initiatives.

# CANs CONNECTION ADVOCACY NETWORKS

Various efforts in which the Chamber builds partnerships on a local and national level with other business organizations and economic development partners to amplify the voice of the business community and increase the collective impact of our advocacy work.



## TOP ADVOCACY ISSUES FOR THE CHAMBER IN 2024-2025

- > **Public Safety:** Pretrial release/detention changes
- > **Health Care:** Provider shortages, liability reform
- > **Homelessness:** Site to take people, overnight beds
- > **Energy:** All-of-the-above approach
- > **Downtown:** Increased projects, crime reduction
- > **School leadership:** Principal development

- > **Economic Development:** Incentives
- > **Infrastructure:** Funding
- > **Education:** High-quality charters, student proficiency focus
- > **Regulations:** Fair paid family medical leave
- > **Investing:** Stable state permanent funds
- > **Taxes:** Reduced pyramiding, GRT rate reduction
- > **Technology:** Crime-fighting, broadband

# BIGS **BOLD ISSUE GROUPS**

## THE CHAMBER IS IN THE BUSINESS OF SOLVING BIG PROBLEMS

We support employers in our community by working to remove barriers to economic growth and create a welcoming and competitive business climate in our city and state. In order to achieve these goals, we will continue to push for fair and sensible tax, regulatory and budget policies at all levels of government. However, Chamber leaders have also identified three systemic challenge areas that pose a fundamental threat to our long-term prospects for prosperity: high crime rates, inadequate academic performance in our public schools, and a need for renewal and revitalization in Downtown Albuquerque.

The Chamber has formed policy committees known as Bold Issue Groups (BIGs) to address these key challenges, and the Board has approved a multi-year strategic plan that identifies our priorities and structures our work within these policy arenas. Our primary goal for each issue area, as well as our core beliefs and policy objectives, are outlined on the following pages.

Enhancing public safety, improving public education and transforming Downtown Albuquerque will take time and require great intention and focus. We are up to the task and in it for the long haul. After all, the Chamber knows that a safe community, with a thriving downtown and a talented well-educated work force, is a place where jobs are created and economic growth is robust and long-lasting.

## BOLD ISSUE GROUPS (BIGs) LEADERSHIP

### PUBLIC SAFETY



**Chair: Scott Hindman**  
Excellent Schools of New Mexico



**Vice Chair: Janice Torrez**  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NM

### EDUCATION REFORM



**Chair: Del Archuleta**  
Molzen Corbin & Associates



**Vice Chair: Paul Madrid**  
Madrid Wealth Management

### DOWNTOWN TRANSFORMATION

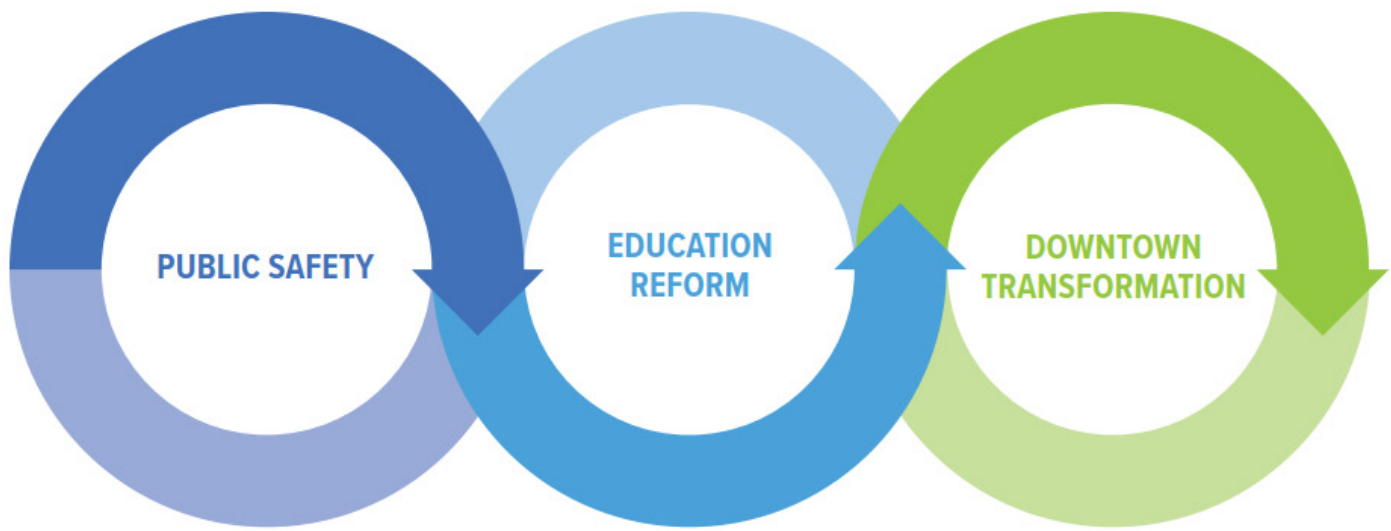


**Chair: Doug Majewski**  
Hartman + Majewski Design Group



**Vice Chair: Tom Briones**  
Briones Business Law Consulting





## THREE KEY POLICY COMMITTEES (BIGs):



### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### > Our Primary Goal

Advocate for and help implement local and state-level policies and practices that will result in a reduction in crime in Bernalillo County and a tough, strategic and technologically advanced criminal justice system.



### EDUCATION REFORM

#### > Our Primary Goal

Advocate for education policies and practices that will lead to a direct improvement in the academic achievement of students in public schools and give every child the opportunity to receive a high-quality education that adequately prepares them for success in college, the workforce and life.



### DOWNTOWN TRANSFORMATION

#### > Our Primary Goal

Work with business, government and community partners to revitalize and transform Downtown Albuquerque into the vibrant heart of our city - an area with broad appeal that is exciting, welcoming and safe for businesses, residents and visitors alike.

On the following pages, read about the Chamber's core beliefs in each of our BIG areas and the major policy initiatives we are pursuing to make progress in our community.

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## A Crime Reduction Mission

### OUR CORE BELIEFS:

- > High crime impedes economic growth, raising business costs and making it harder to attract employers and workers.
- > Those who commit crimes must face swift and certain apprehension and punishment; this is a key deterrent, and in New Mexico, it's not happening.
- > Crime in Albuquerque is substantially driven by drugs, trafficking, addiction and behavioral health disorders.
- > The data-driven differentiation of offenders and deployment of technology in crime-fighting are keys to a more efficient, effective and fair justice system.
- > Recent major changes to New Mexico's justice system have made it harder to police and prosecute crime; as such, it has become easier to commit a crime in New Mexico without facing adequate consequences.

## THE SPECIAL SESSION THAT WASN'T

In April 2024, the Chamber had great hopes for positive outcomes when the governor called a special session on public safety starting July 18. The Board of Directors voted unanimously to support all of her proposed public safety bills, and Chamber leaders and staff were prepared to testify for:

- > Toughening penalties for felons in possession of a firearm.
- > Barring unsafe use of public highways and medians.
- > Requiring reports from law enforcement agencies on crime incident and ballistic information.
- > Changing the standards for criminal competency to ensure dangerous defendants are held pending trial to ensure the safety of the community, especially from chronic, repeat offenders.
- > Refining the definitions of "harm to self" and "harm to others" to, again, better protect law-abiding residents from dangerous individuals.

Unfortunately the session ended just hours after it was gaveled in, without a single committee hearing on a single bill. The Chamber will continue to advocate for these common-sense measures that will better protect law-abiding residents and better assist those in mental health crises.





# CHAMBER MAKES HEADWAY ON PRETRIAL RELEASE AND OFFICER STAFFING

For years the Chamber has recognized there are two things feeding New Mexico communities' crime problem:

> Rampant pre-trial release of offenders – even violent, repeat offenders who've been arrested for yet another serious crime.

> Too few law enforcement officers on our streets.

And for years the Chamber has been at the forefront of each, advocating for legislative support for rebuttable presumption to keep dangerous defendants in custody pending trial, and for incentives to get experienced officers to stay or return to work to shore up the ranks.



In September 2023, the Chamber hosted a Crime Summit for N.M. Attorney General Raúl Torrez, center. Law enforcement officials discussed solutions and obstacles to fighting crime in our state for four hours.

At long last, state lawmakers in the 2024 regular session, under pressure from victims, business leaders, law enforcement and the public, passed two laws that begin to make progress in these areas. While these will by no means solve the issues, they are important steps that can be built upon. These laws mean:

> NO MORE FREE PASS FOR SERIOUS OFFENDERS

— Provides for a defendant to be held automatically without bail if they're arrested for a subsequent felony while on pretrial release for a previous felony – stopping the repeat offenders responsible for an outsized amount of the crime plaguing our state. It's not the "default setting" the Chamber seeks that has defendants await trial in jail when charged with a violent or serious felony, but it brings New Mexico closer to it.

> A STAFFING BRIDGE BUILT WITH EXPERIENCED OFFICERS — Offers a concrete, financial incentive to help encourage trained officers to return to work to continue their public safety career. Allowing some retired officers to work and keep their pension benefit promises to increase the number of experienced law enforcement and corrections officers while our agencies shore up their ranks with new recruits.

## CHAMBER PRIORTIES FOR 2024-2025

### Crack Down on Serious Repeat Offenders

> Support federal, state and local law enforcement and prosecutors in identifying offenders with warrants who are driving violent crime and drug trafficking - and get them held in jail and off the streets.

### Attack Fentanyl Trafficking

> Support legislation increasing penalties for the trafficking of fentanyl, as well as efforts to stop the flow of fentanyl across New Mexico's southern border.

### Pre-Trial Release of Serious Offenders

> Push for further statutory changes to the current pre-trial release system, including the creation of a rebuttable presumption of detention for repeat offenders and those arrested for serious/violent crimes.

### Juvenile Crime Initiative

> Push for an update of the Children's Code and other statutory changes to provide clearer consequences and more effective interventions for young violent offenders.

### Exit DOJ Oversight of APD, Add to Officer Ranks

> Push for a swift resolution to the DOJ's settlement agreement with APD, with a clear exit timeline.  
> Support efforts to recruit more police officers to Albuquerque, oppose policies that would hinder recruitment.

### Crime-Fighting Technology

> Help secure capital funding for more police technology and equipment, including cutting-edge tools to support and assist in solving homicides, robberies and burglaries.  
> Support local efforts to connect private security cameras to the Real Time Crime Center — especially in Downtown.

# EDUCATION REFORM

## Working to Ensure Every Child Can Attend a High-Quality Public School

### OUR CORE BELIEFS:

- > Every child is capable of learning and growing academically, regardless of their background.
- > The success of New Mexico's schools should be measured primarily by whether students are learning.
- > Talented, effective school leaders are essential to turning around New Mexico's alarmingly low academic performance, where just three in 10 students read on grade level and one in four do not graduate from high school.
- > Public schools delivering great results for kids should (a) have their successful practices integrated into struggling schools, (b) develop and send out talented administrators and teachers to other schools, and (c) in the case of charter schools, expand to serve more children.
- > Intervening early with students helps them develop critical literacy skills and can prevent them from becoming discouraged and dropping out.
- > Our schools are the workforce pipeline for New Mexico's employers; they should help train students for great careers in key economic sectors and workforce shortage areas.

## SCHOOL LEADERSHIP KEY TO BETTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Better-prepared, better-supported principals will pave the way

In November 2022, the Chamber released groundbreaking research on the importance of principal preparation to the academic performance of New Mexico schools. Since then the Chamber has collaborated with the Thornburg and Los Alamos National Laboratory foundations, as well as the Legislative Education Study Committee, Public Education Department, Legislative Finance Committee and lawmakers to put the recommendations into practice. The Chamber will advocate for the legislation in 2025.

### Chamber's Legislative Plan

- > Reviving, rebranding and funding the state's defunct School Leadership Institute to oversee the efforts.
- > Defining program criteria for school leader preparation in statute.
  - > Updating educational administration licensure code to differentiate between school leaders and district leaders.



# CHARTER SCHOOLS GET MORE FUNDING, MORE SEATS

**T**his past year has seen important gains for the state's high-quality charter schools, which offer families and students a choice and which the Chamber has been integral in supporting. On the funding front, Public Charter Schools of New Mexico earned a five-year, \$52 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to open new public charter schools, expand existing schools and replicate high-performing charter schools across the state. Chamber leaders and board members successfully advocated for the funding on several trips to Washington, D.C. Funding from the grant has already been awarded to charters the Chamber has championed: East Mountain High School and Solare Collegiate Charter School in southwest Albuquerque, where GACC Chairman-elect Peter Lorenz is a founding board member, have received funding. In addition, two new charters the Chamber has testified in favor of have received the green light — from APS for East Mountain's Middle School and from the Public Education Commission for Equip Academy, a K-5 college prep founded by GACC Leadership Albuquerque graduate Mercy L. Herrera. Equip has also received funding from the grant.



**TOP:** Bruce Stidworthy, Bohannon Huston president and CEO and GACC past chairman gives testimony for Equip Academy of New Mexico at the school's PEC hearing.

**ABOVE:** Members of Equip Academy of New Mexico at the Public Education Commission hearing. The proposed West Side charter school was approved for classes to begin in fall 2025. Third from right is Mercy L. Herrera, founder of the school.

## CHAMBER PRIORTIES FOR 2024-2025

### Public Charter School Growth

- > Continue meetings between local business leaders and the directors of high-quality charter schools, urging and helping them to open another campus, add grade levels or expand enrollment.
- > Maintain bipartisan opposition in the Legislature to charter school enrollment caps and moratoria on new charter schools.

### Albuquerque Reads

- > Sustain the Chamber's ABQ Reads literacy tutoring program for struggling K-1 readers.

### School Leadership Research and Changes

- > Continue to advocate at the Legislature for a package of program changes, new policies and funding requests to improve the preparation and quality of principals in our state.

### School and Student Performance at APS

- > Support the rigorous measurement of academic progress.
- > Support the APS superintendent and board in pursuit of supporting the student achievement goals as outlined in the district's Strategic Plan.

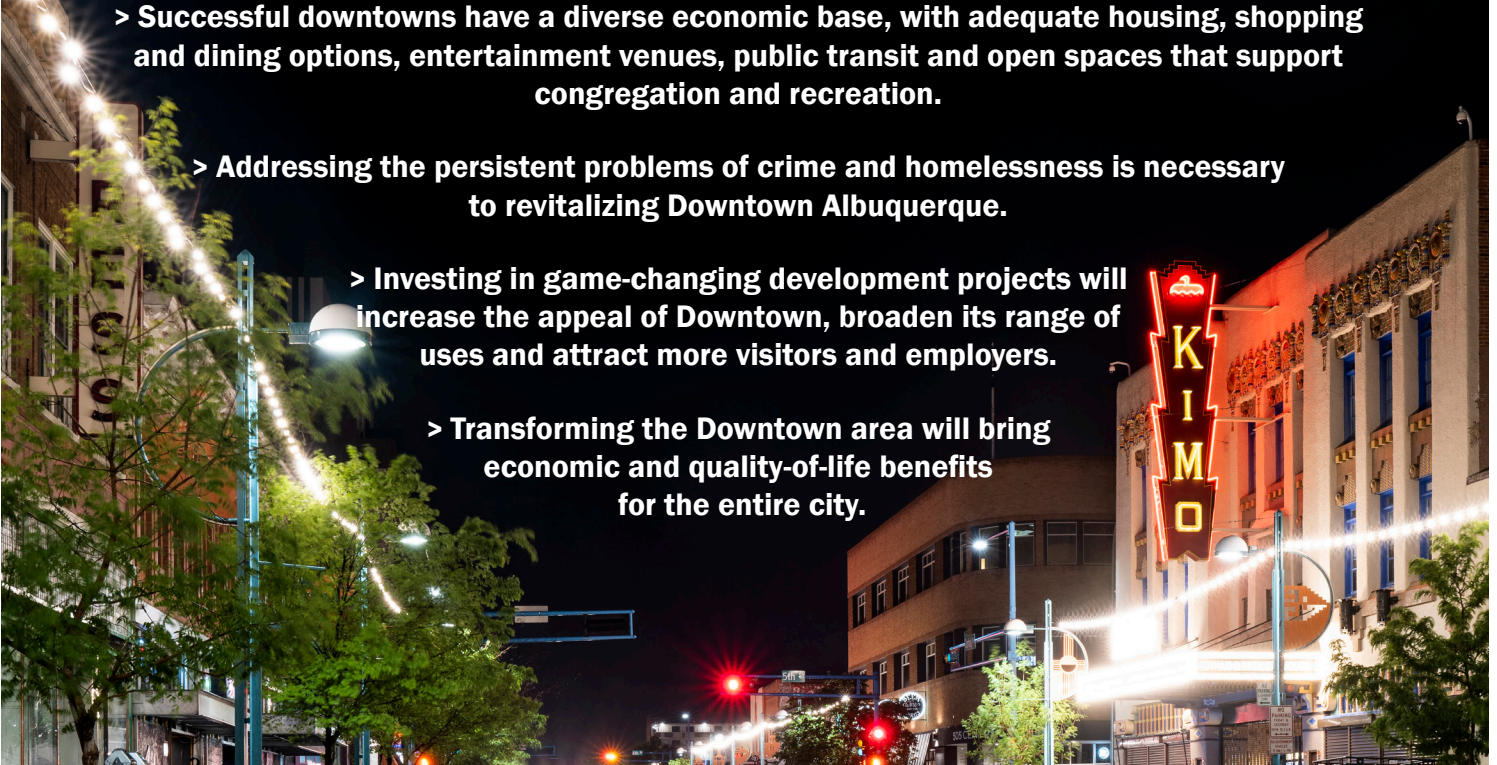


# DOWNTOWN TRANSFORMATION

**Creating a Vibrant  
Live-Work-Play Environment  
in the Core of Our City**

## OUR CORE BELIEFS:

- > Successful and thriving cities tend to have a vibrant downtown, bustling with people.
- > Successful downtowns have a diverse economic base, with adequate housing, shopping and dining options, entertainment venues, public transit and open spaces that support congregation and recreation.
- > Addressing the persistent problems of crime and homelessness is necessary to revitalizing Downtown Albuquerque.
- > Investing in game-changing development projects will increase the appeal of Downtown, broaden its range of uses and attract more visitors and employers.
- > Transforming the Downtown area will bring economic and quality-of-life benefits for the entire city.



## GATEWAY CENTER TACKLES HOMELESSNESS

The Chamber organized a trip to San Antonio in 2018 to visit Haven for Hope, which prompted the Chamber's advocacy for the newly opened Gateway Center on Gibson Boulevard – our community needs an overnight shelter with co-located services, including health care and housing navigation, that provides first responders a place to take people to get them off our streets, out of our

parks, and on their way to a more stable life.

Gateway currently offers beds to women overnight, and Gateway West on the far West Mesa has beds for several hundred unhoused men and women nightly. The Chamber appreciates the city's work in this area and looks forward to an expansion of the number of available shelter

beds, especially for single men, getting us closer to the San Antonio model.

THE SUNDAY JOURNAL

OP-ED

ALBUQUERQUE, MARCH 15, 2020 A13

### Gateway Center is crucial for the homeless

**BY TERRI COLE**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, GREATER ALBUQUERQUE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**AND NORM BECKER**  
CHAIRMAN, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
TRANSFORMATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Homelessness continues to be one of Albuquerque's most serious and pressing economic development challenges, impacting feelings of safety among residents and businesses alike. For years, we've seen how we respond to homelessness — and especially homeless single adults — that must be directly addressed to make progress.

For example, our community has very limited overnight sheltering — particularly within the core of Albuquerque and specifically for individuals facing substance abuse

ing. It's also no surprise that people feel unsafe and frequently call first responders to handle situations involving the homeless, including nuisance violations, trespassing, down-and-out persons or direct confrontations. When first responders arrive, they usually have no place to transport homeless individuals — many of whom struggle with addiction and mental health disorders — other than to jail or an emergency room. These are costly, inefficient, revolving-door responses that aren't helpful to the homeless long-term and take law enforcement personnel off our streets.

The Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce fully supports the construction of a new around-the-clock shelter and ser-

vice center to help with the visibility and intrusion of homelessness across our community. It will be a drop-off point for first responders, allowing officers to place the homeless in the care of professionals who can evaluate and transport them for medical or behavioral health treatment. The Gateway Center will also serve as an entry point and coordination center for services. Ideally, existing service providers could be prevented on site to screen and connect people to the help they most need and, eventually, to suitable permanent housing. Such a centralized clearinghouse would also be helpful with triage, testing and transition to treatment in pandemic situations like the one we currently face.

nature of our homelessness problem. Make no mistake: though homelessness takes many forms, the serious acute challenges we're facing in Albuquerque relate primarily to homelessness among single adults, both men and women, who need access to low-barrier overnight sheltering that we simply do not have.

According to a city-commissioned report by outside homeless experts, single adults account for about three-fourths of our overall homeless population, and "virtually all" of the unsheltered homeless in Albuquerque are single adults. Virtually all

We appreciate every effort being made to address homelessness among minors, families, domestic violence victims, veterans and

**BACKGROUND:** The Gateway Center opened on Central Avenue and offers beds to provide shelter to the unhoused.





The vision for the Rail Trail includes interactive milestones like the “electric tumbleweed” and the “Enchantment Plaza.”

The Chamber is a strong supporter of the city’s ongoing plans to develop a 7-mile, heart-shaped urban trail that would allow residents and visitors to walk or bike from the historic Rail Yards to Downtown proper, to Old Town and the Sawmill District, to our museums and BioPark facilities and the beautiful Rio Grande bosque. We see it as an anchor attraction in Downtown, catalyzing the development of commercial enterprises and unique public spaces that will pull more people into the area.

So far the city has secured about half the funding needed (\$40 million from local, state and federal sources, including another \$260,000 in the 2024 regular legislative session), and broken ground on two of the planned eight phases (near the the Alvarado Transportation Center and in the Sawmill District).

Albuquerque-based and internationally-renowned architect Antoine Predock developed a vision for the project. At “hotspots” along the route, which Predock calls “auras,” Rail Trail users will be invited to pause to take in a collage that captures the history of the place, along with a QR code visitors can scan with their smartphone to learn more. The most dramatic of these will be an electric tumbleweed, a 25-foot neon sphere cyclists and pedestrians will walk through and cars will drive underneath at a railroad underpass.

Another hardscape feature will be the Enchantment Plaza, where the trail will be raised above the ground to give users a spectacular view of the city and the Sandia Mountains, and create space for pop-up shops and restaurants underneath.



## CHAMBER PRIORITIES FOR 2024-2025

### > The Albuquerque Rail Trail

Secure local, state and federal funding – as well as public support – for the ongoing development of a nearly 7-mile trail connecting key parts of the greater Downtown area (see inset).

### > High-Quality Hub for Homeless Sheltering and Services

Support the swift scaling up of the Gateway Center as originally intended – a 24/7 shelter and coordinated service center for the homeless.

### > Business Improvement District (BID)

Launch a Downtown business improvement district, allowing businesses to pool and spend resources on Downtown-specific marketing, beautification, special events or markets, homeless interventions and additional public safety improvements.

### > Crime-Fighting Resources and Coordination

Support city- and county-led efforts to bring a greater police presence to Downtown, including more officers, security cameras tied into citywide, real-time monitoring and technology.

### > Tax Increment Financing for Downtown Redevelopment Projects

Work with the city and county to capture and invest additional revenue for Downtown development projects, up to twentyfold, pursuant to a new state law.

# EDTS

**Chair: Tom Jenkins, Real Estate Advisors**

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

### BUSINESS OF GROWTH

Sector by sector, the Chamber is working to improve our state's economy by advocating for regulatory and legislative changes that will help diversify and grow our private sector. As issues or opportunities arise that would impact a particular industry — or group of industries — in New Mexico, the Chamber will convene Economic Development Team meetings to discuss the business community's response to the situation and advocacy strategy. These meetings will include investor companies from the affected sector(s), Chamber staff and Board members, allied organizations and trade associations, leading experts and other local leaders. The goal is to build a strong coalition with a clear message, goal and game plan for driving pro-business changes at the local, state or federal level.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAMS



**CHAIR: RYAN SHELL**  
**NEW MEXICO GAS COMPANY**

Energy and Utilities  
Telecommunications  
Information Technology  
Tech/Innovation and Aviation/Space



**CHAIR: MIKE CANFIELD**  
**INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER**

Retail and Services  
Restaurants  
Leisure, Recreation, and Hospitality  
Vehicle Rentals and Sales



**CHAIR: MIKE CANFIELD**  
**INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER**

Membership Development Committee  
Team members: Margaret Meister  
Modrall Sperling Law Firm  
Kyle Beasley Bank of Albuquerque



**CHAIR: FRANK GALLEGOS**  
**INTEL**

Manufacturing  
Design and Construction  
Real Estate — Commercial and Residential



**CHAIR: BRETT THOMPSON**  
**KPMG**

Banking and Financial Services  
Audit and Accounting  
Legal and Other Professional Services



**CHAIR: KATE BECKER**  
**UNM HOSPITALS**

Healthcare and Senior Services



# CANS

**Chair: Kevin Eades, Molzen Corbin & Associates**  
**CONNECTION ADVOCACY NETWORKS**

**We are always stronger — and our voice on behalf of businesses is louder — when we work as a team.**

**The Chamber works diligently to build partnerships with a wide range of organizational partners across New Mexico and the United States, including other chambers of commerce, trade associations and economic development organizations.**

## LOCAL PARTNERS

### Other Chambers of Commerce

A statewide chamber association meets regularly and, prior to each legislative session, collaborates on setting business priorities.

### Economic Development Organizations

The Chamber often works with EDOs to stop harmful legislation that would hurt business recruitment and pass legislation making New Mexico more competitive for jobs.

### Trade Associations

Various trade groups join the Chamber's Economic Development Team meetings, and we collaborate on advocacy efforts with groups representing restaurants, hospitals, contractors, realtors and others.



**The Chamber joined a broad, vocal coalition of organizations advocating in Congress for more direct flights to be added from western states to our nation's capital. This May, Congress passed, and the president signed, the FAA reauthorization act adding flights to the region.**



**The Chamber's Rick Alvidrez testified in support of East Mountain Middle School at the PEC.**

## Standing Strong for Businesses... Together

The Chamber's Board of Directors and legislative team — which includes business leaders, lobbyists, policy experts and skilled communicators — works with numerous other business organizations to ensure bills and ordinances that pass serve the common and greater good. In 2024 these collaborations ensured these initiatives did not move forward:

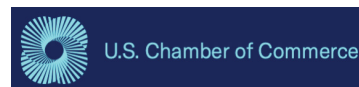
- An overbroad Air Quality ordinance at Albuquerque's City Council that would have stopped development in its tracks
- An overreaching change to the NM ICC Energy Code on EV parking spaces and chargers that would have made development unaffordable
- An onerous legislative bill that would have imposed an unworkable paid family/medical leave mandate on businesses and workers
- Another bill that would have severely restricted oil and gas production, which funds more than half the state's new revenue
- Yet another that would have replaced the appointed public education secretary with an unaccountable, mostly-elected state board

In 2024, these collaborations ensured these initiatives moved forward:

- A new soccer stadium at Balloon Fiesta Park
- A new recycling center for metro Albuquerque
- An end to the tax on military retirement benefits

## NATIONAL PARTNERS

We partner with these three national chamber organizations to promote economic growth across the United States:







Leadership Albuquerque's members see issues and industries firsthand, as with this tour of Wagner Equipment given by Anthony Alexander, at left.



### Leadership Albuquerque

A widely-acclaimed professional education program that develops knowledgeable and engaged civic leaders in our community



### Albuquerque Reads

An education program that provides low-income elementary students up to 20 books per year and 90 minutes of one-on-one literacy instruction each week by volunteer tutors



### New Mexico Roadrunners

Goodwill ambassadors representing Albuquerque's business community who travel each year to different parts of New Mexico to build relationships with local elected officials, chambers of commerce and other partners





Leadership ABQ Class of 2024 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

# LEADERSHIP ALBUQUERQUE

**Chair: David Campbell, Lobo Development Corporation**

**Vice Chair: Jeremy Oswald, Citizens Bank**



Leadership Albuquerque develops and prepares professionals to expand their influence in their organizations and increase their engagement in the community.

## What Leadership Albuquerque Offers Participants:

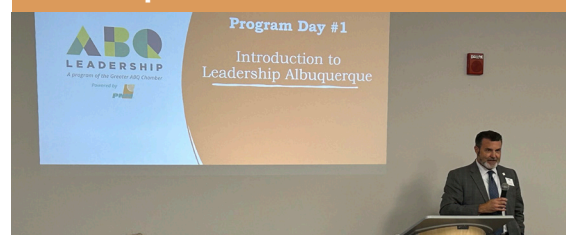
- > ACCESS to top influencers and decision makers in our city and state
- > Interesting and exciting EXPERIENCES
- > KNOWLEDGE about the critical issues impacting economic growth and our quality of life
- > Meaningful CONNECTIONS with other business and civic leaders in Albuquerque
- > Opportunities for SERVICE and professional LEADERSHIP growth
- > Developing knowledgeable and engaged civic leaders in our community

*"Leadership Albuquerque pulls no punches. You will learn the good, bad and ugly about issues impacting your family, your employer and your community. You will leave the program more informed, more passionate and better prepared for the next step on your leadership journey."*

– Michael Hoffman, Lovelace Health System

## TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE

- > Public Safety and Behavioral Health
- > Energy and Water
- > K-12 and Early Childhood Education
- > State and Local Government
- > Economic Development and Diversification
- > Tourism and Quality of Life
- > Downtown Transformation
- > Skill Building: Negotiations and Lead Intergenerational Workplaces



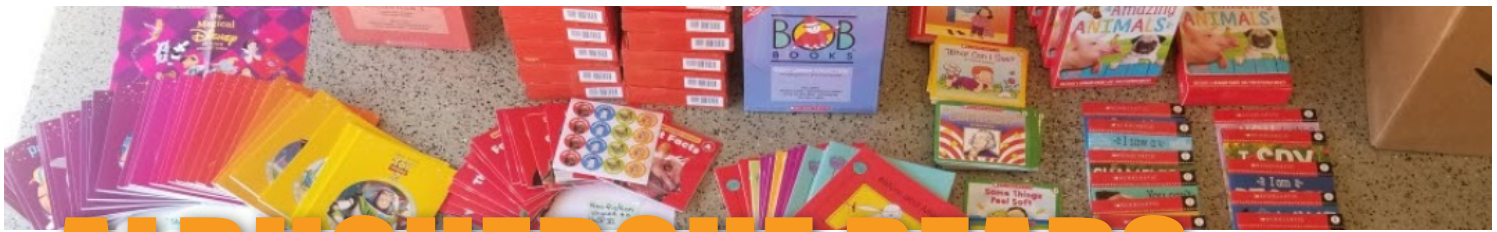
**Thank you to our sponsors for helping create Albuquerque's future leaders:**



Bohannon & Huston







# ALBUQUERQUE READS

**Chair: Michelle Donaldson, KOB-TV**

Albuquerque Reads, our partnership with Albuquerque Public Schools that provides a trajectory-changing literacy tutoring program, has been going strong for more than two decades.



ABQ Reads provides kindergarteners and first-graders with 90 minutes of one-on-one literacy instruction each week, delivered by more than 150 adult volunteers. A collaborative effort between the Chamber and APS, the program serves mostly students from low-income families at three elementary schools. The Chamber also provides each student with a backpack and up to 20 books of their very own to read at home.

But don't just take it from us: Here's what one of our Albuquerque Public Schools school site coordinators says:

## GIVE THE GIFT OF LITERACY

Interested in volunteering to help a child learn to read or donating to support this important work? Visit [www.abqreads.com](http://www.abqreads.com), or contact Kayla Nelson at 505-843-7323 or [reads@greaterabq.com](mailto:reads@greaterabq.com).



## Whittier First-Grade Program

"Our first grade had two ESL students from different families that had just arrived from different countries in Africa. They arrived during the second semester. When they began, they spoke no English and were very reserved and quiet. We placed them carefully with experienced tutors who were retired teachers. After the first week one was still reluctant to attend tutoring sessions. We think she was confused because she had a tutor that was ill and was not there as she walked in the door each day. We set her up with a new tutor, and that is when 'the magic' happened. They bonded, and she started reading and responding. Soon she was drawing and writing stories that she was proud of. She was excited to work one-on-one with her tutor! The other child was comforted to attend by a classmate that was in the program and had no reticence to attend but struggled until the tutor found a book with pictures that he could name in his language, and he quickly picked up the English words. Both students were extremely intelligent and were made to feel comfortable in the one-to-one interactions with their tutors in ABQ Reads, and they made excellent progress."

— Patricia Willis, Whittier Elementary first-grade site coordinator





## Chair: Kevin Eades Molzen Corbin & Associates

The New Mexico Roadrunners are goodwill ambassadors representing Albuquerque's business community. In the metro area they support our



local businesses, whether it's at a ribbon-cutting, groundbreaking or expansion, emphasizing that we all prosper when New Mexico's

business sector grows and thrives. Across the state, the Roadrunners travel each year to different parts of New Mexico to meet with local businesses, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, elected and appointed officials, and university and community leaders. Along the way, they share exciting "New Mexico True" experiences and eat at iconic restaurants, learn about important issues and local concerns, and build strong relationships in support of a shared mission: to make New Mexico a great place to start and grow a business and a great place to work and raise a family.



In 2018, Roadrunners traveled to southern New Mexico, touring the Borderplex at Santa Teresa and Spaceport America and meeting with leaders from Deming, New Mexico Tech, New Mexico State University and local businesses to strengthen each other's understanding of our communities.



In 2019, the Roadrunners used the spring to hit the road to northwest New Mexico, visiting the Navajo agricultural products industry and Chaco Canyon and having in-depth conversations with the Navajo Nation president, local oil and gas producers, Farmington school district leaders and key lawmakers from Farmington and Gallup to find where we could work together.

In fall 2019, they filled the bus again and headed to eastern New Mexico to meet with legislative and Eastern New Mexico University leaders and oil and gas producers, along with touring a dairy and Cannon Air Force Base. Again, the goal was to share strengths and challenges and find common ground to join forces as advocates.



In 2023, Roadrunners visited Carlsbad and saw the oil and gas sector at work with industry leader OXY, toured the WIPP underground nuclear waste storage facility and visited with chamber and business leaders from Carlsbad and Roswell to better understand what was working and what we could collaborate on to improve.



In 2024, Roadrunners headed north to the Enchanted Circle to check out the tourism and outdoor recreation sectors. The trip covered a lot of ground – from a tour of Bandelier National Monument to a behind-the-scenes look at the state's behavioral health hospital. Chamber, community and business leaders in Los Alamos, Taos, Questa, Red River and Las Vegas shared their successes and challenges and helped forge lasting partnerships to help New Mexico live up to its potential.

TOP OF PAGE: The 2024 New Mexico Roadrunners outside the Questa fish hatchery.





# THE CHAMBER ADVANTAGE

Bruce Stidworthy,  
past-GACC Chairman  
of the Board, speaks  
at the Chamber's  
2023 Public Safety  
event.

GREATER  
ALBUQUERQUE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## AN IMPORTANT MISSION

The Chamber works with government, business and community partners to promote and develop a welcoming business environment and thriving, diverse economy in New Mexico. Our goal is to make our city and state a great place to start and grow a business and a safe, exciting place to work and raise a family.

## A REPUTATION-BUILDER FOR BUSINESSES

Chamber involvement says a lot to consumers about a business. In fact, a 2020 scientific survey by Research & Polling, Inc. found that **OVER HALF** of all Bernalillo County residents (52%) have a more favorable opinion of a business if it is active in our local chamber of commerce (compared to just 12% who view chamber affiliation unfavorably). These results hold across all regions of Albuquerque and across all demographic lines.

## A PRIVATELY-FUNDED BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

Our investor companies represent over 130,000 employees statewide, and 70% of our Chamber investors have been with our organization for a decade or more. The Chamber is privately-funded - not a part of government - and is a long-standing and well-respected voice for businesses in our community.



## Investing in the Chamber Brings Benefits in Three Key Areas

### EVENTS AND SPONSORS

The Chamber organizes informative and fun events year-round with a focus on business priorities — see pages 22-23

### ADVOCACY

The Chamber is a powerful and necessary voice for business at all levels of government — see pages 26-31

### BUSINESS RESOURCES AND CONNECTIONS

The Chamber is uniquely suited to help its investor companies connect with government agencies and officials, other businesses, and critical resources and information — see pages 32-33

# 2024-2025 GACC CAN'T-MISS EVENTS

The Chamber strives to bring our members and the public a wide array of first-class events that range from networking to keynote speakers who are prominent in their field, from in-person luncheons to virtual meetings with leaders in Albuquerque, the Roundhouse and Washington, D.C.

## NETWORKING

> **SHAKERS & STIRRERS @ SHARK REEF CAFE** — 12-1:30 p.m. lunch July 16, 2024

> **SHAKERS & STIRRERS @ UNM FOOTBALL GAME** — 2:30 p.m. Oct. 12, 2024 — hors d'oeuvres and drinks, followed by exclusive special events and Lobo football game

> **SHAKERS & STIRRERS @ FOGO DE CHAO** — 12-1:30 p.m. lunch Feb. 11, 2025

> **SHAKERS & STIRRERS @ ELECTRIC PLAYHOUSE** — 12-1:30 p.m. lunch March 5, 2025

> **SHAKERS & STIRRERS @ ISOTOPES** — 5 p.m., Rio Grande Credit Union Field at Isotopes Park (Date TBD in early 2025) Dinner and baseball game

> **SHAKERS AND STIRRERS @ UNIRAC** — 12-1:30 p.m. lunch May 29, 2025  
Lunch and tour of solar manufacturing facility

## SIGNATURE

> **ROADRUNNERS TRIP TO ENCHANTED CIRCLE** — Sept. 18-20, 2024 Los Alamos, Taos, Questa, Red River and Las Vegas

> **ANNUAL MEETING** — 12-1:30 p.m. luncheon Oct. 30, 2024, Albuquerque Convention Center  
Keynote: **AEI Education Reform Speaker Robert Pondiscio**

> **CRIME STAT – PUBLIC SAFETY BOLD ISSUE GROUP MEETING** — 12-1:30 p.m. luncheon Nov. 13, 2024, Albuquerque Convention Center  
Keynote: **Bernalillo County District Attorney Sam Bregman**, Chamber presents Prosecutor of the Year award to one of the 2nd Judicial District's prosecutors

> **WASHINGTON DC FLY-IN TRIP** — Dec. 10-13, 2024 — Meeting with N.M.'s congressional delegation and groups in D.C., staying at the historic Willard Intercontinental Hotel

> **GOVERNOR'S POST-SESSION LEGISLATIVE ADDRESS TO MEMBERSHIP** — 12-1:30 p.m. luncheon (Date TBD)  
Keynote: **Governor** recaps the 2025 session

> **EDUCATION BOLD ISSUE GROUP MEETING** — 12-1:30 pm. luncheon May 7, 2025, Albuquerque Convention Center  
Keynote: **Dr. Carey Wright, Maryland Superintendent of Schools and former Mississippi Superintendent of Education**

> **DOWNTOWN BOLD ISSUE GROUP MEETING** — 12-1:30 p.m. luncheon June 2025 (Date and site TBD)  
Keynote: **Mayor Tim Keller** on Downtown and general city issues

## VIRTUAL

> **Monthly News and Views Anniversary Appreciation Program** kicks off this program year — Recognizing the anniversaries of GACC members

> **BUSINESS BEAT 1: Legislative Session/ State Finances** featuring **LFC Director Charles Sallee** — 3 p.m. Dec. 2, 2024

> **BUSINESS BEAT 2: The Future of Energy** featuring **Don Tarry, President and CEO, PNM** — 3 p.m. May 20, 2025

> **BUSINESS BEAT 3: Our Flagship University** featuring **President Garnett Stokes** and Cabinet members — 3 p.m. May 2025 (Date TBD)

> **BUSINESS BEAT 4: Congressional Delegation Membership Meeting** featuring **Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury, Congressman Gabe Vasquez, Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez** — June 2025 (Time and Date TBD)



# THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO  
ATHLETICS | HEALTH SCIENCES | HOSPITALS  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER  
RAINFOREST INNOVATIONS





# BY NEW MEXICO FOR NEW MEXICO

**New Mexico Mutual has provided workers' comp insurance  
and protected our community since 1991.**

We're devoted to our state's success—and that's more than a sentiment. Everything about us is local. When you call our office, you'll reach our team right here in New Mexico. We travel around the state to work with our customers in person. And we focus on writing coverage for New Mexico businesses, so your dollars stay here and make our economy stronger.

Our coverage protects you, your neighbors, and your community—in industries like restaurants, construction, healthcare, and more.

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## Ransomware losses may exceed \$10B in 2024. Is your business safe?

Cybersecurity is complicated.  
Understanding your cyber risk  
doesn't have to be.

Our Security Scorecard helps  
Albuquerque businesses  
uncover vulnerabilities by  
evaluating 10 Threat Indicators.

Get **\$500 off**  
our Security  
Scorecard with  
Promocode  
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# ADVOCACY

## A POWERFUL VOICE FOR BUSINESS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

### PILLARS OF THE CHAMBER'S ADVOCACY WORK

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAMS (EDTs)

Industry-specific groups discuss barriers to business growth, develop recommendations for the Chamber's advocacy work at the local, state and federal levels and build coalitions with aligned partners. Chamber investors are encouraged to participate in their industry's EDT when the need arises.

#### BOLD ISSUES GROUPS (BIGs)

Three policy committees work with government and community leaders to transform Downtown Albuquerque, reform and improve public education and reduce crime. Progress in these three areas will make our community a more welcoming, thriving and attractive place to live, work and do business.

#### LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF BUSINESS

The Chamber's team of policy experts, communicators and lobbyists analyzes policy proposals and monitors government decision-making at all levels, engaging with appointed and elected leaders to help craft and pass legislation that (a) incorporates the perspective of the business community, (b) supports economic growth and (c) makes it easier to be a job creator. At times, the Chamber must work to stop legislation that is detrimental to economic growth. In the 2024 regular and special legislative sessions, seven Chamber policy analysts, writers, lobbyists, staff members — and several board members — were involved in the Chamber's business advocacy work in Santa Fe.

#### POLICY MEETINGS AND BEST-PRACTICE VISITS

The Chamber meets throughout the year with government officials and various partners to develop pro-business policy proposals, arrange visits to other cities and states to identify best practices (in order to implement them here) and convene task forces that address critical issues and challenges. At the local and state level, the Chamber is often involved in negotiating the various provisions of ordinances and bills.

#### PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Chamber is a prominent and active voice for businesses in the traditional news media — through interviews, op-ed pieces and press conferences — and on social media.





# SIGNATURE EVENTS WITH EXPERTS, THINKERS AND LEADERS

The Chamber holds a number of events each year with top decision makers and experts, bringing the business community quite literally to the table on any number of important issues.

> Last year, among other events, the Chamber hosted Brett Orrell of the American Enterprise Institute to discuss “Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work” at our annual meeting.

> At our annual Public Safety luncheon, 2nd Judicial District Attorney Sam Bregman, Albuquerque Police Chief Harold Medina and Bernalillo County Sheriff John Allen discussed their efforts to tackle crime in the metro area.

> Albuquerque Public Schools’ new Superin-

tendent Dr. Gabriella Durán Blakey addressed the Chamber at our annual Education luncheon, sharing her vision for getting the state’s largest school district on the right track.

> And Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and Mayor Tim Keller were the keynote speakers at annual Chamber luncheons recapping the just-completed legislative session and the state of Albuquerque and Downtown, respectively. A full schedule of our 2024-2025 events is on page 22.



Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Gabriella Durán Blakey discusses her plan to move the state’s largest district forward.

## BUSINESS BEAT SPEAKER SERIES

Each year the Chamber presents a virtual event series called the Business Beat Speaker Series, which features high-ranking speakers on four to five newsworthy topics — including the state of state finances with the director of the Legislative Finance Committee, what our Washington, D.C. delegation is doing straight from our three representatives in the U.S. House, and the future of UNM from its president and Cabinet officials. The virtual series will be back this year for more in-depth discussions on these topics and others that affect our local business community. Again, a full schedule of our 2024-2025 events is on page 22.



## BOARD MEETINGS

The Chamber regularly hosts elected leaders, government officials and policy experts to lay out the state of things and take questions on the pressing issues facing Albuquerque, New Mexico and the nation. Guests in the past year have included Mayor Tim Keller, City Council President Dan Lewis, numerous state senators and representatives, UNM officials, CNM President Tracy Hartzler, APS Superintendent Gabriella Durán Blakey, APD Homicide Unit Commander Kyle Hartsock, George Rangel of SIMCO, which runs WIPP, and others.

## OP-EDS

During the last program year, the Chamber policy analysts and writers actively worked to ensure the concerns of the business community were heard by decision-makers and the public at large on issues ranging from public safety to funding for our state's only Level 1 trauma center, from policies to improve student academic performance to those that will reinvigorate our Downtown. This advocacy work provides a singular voice, a strength in numbers, on the important issues facing our residents, employees and business owners.

C4 THE SUNDAY JOURNAL

ALBUQUERQUE, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

## Vote 'yes' on the UNMH mill levy for a healthy ABQ future

BY DEL ESPARZA AND TERRI COLE  
GREATER ALBUQUERQUE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

As leaders of the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, we understand the vital role a robust health care system plays in attracting and retaining quality employees and businesses in our community. And as Albuquerque residents, we know we and our fellow New Mexicans deserve great health care.



Del Esparza



Terri Cole

So do all our chamber members; it's why our board of directors voted unanimously to support the University of New Mexico Hospital mill levy that's on the ballot this fall.

For voters to understand how essential this funding is, it is important to lay out what this mill levy will—and won't—do. UNMH is the hospital we all hope we don't need but are so thankful for when we do. This funding will enable UNMH to continue to provide its unparalleled high-quality health care, including:

■ **New Mexico's only Level 1 Trauma Center.** Level 1 traumas are the most serious injuries and require quick response times and treatment. Having a Level 1 Trauma Center and 24-hour emergency room at UNMH are important to individuals, families and businesses.

Whether it's a serious fall or a vehicle wreck, these facilities are lifelines for our residents and our workforce. Having immediate access to top-notch emergency care can be the difference between life and death, between prolonged downtime and swift recovery.

■ **New Mexico's only dedicated pedi-**



EDDIE MOORE/JOURNAL

Kyla Thomas, left, a respiratory therapist at the University of New Mexico Hospital, and Cesar Gonzalez, a nursing student at UNMH and interning as a medical assistant, tell U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., about their bronchoscope and how they use it. Heinrich was there in April to learn about UNMH's work-based learning program.

atric hospital. UNMH Children's Hospital treats thousands of our children every year. The hospital's cutting-edge technology and specialized care are strong motivators for families moving to, and staying in, New Mexico. Knowing that your child's health needs will be met at the highest level is an attractive plus.

■ **A teaching academic health UNMH cares for complex health r**

— regardless of. It is the primary UNM School of providers and th

cutting edge of medical research, technology, clinical trials and specialty patient care.

■ **The state's only NCI-designated cancer treatment center.** The UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center is nationally recognized for breakthrough



JON AUSTRIA/NEW JOURNAL

University of New Mexico Hospital.

one that requires voter approval every eight years. In this manner, UNMH is able to secure the vital funding it requires without imposing any extra tax liability on the community.

Approving this mill levy is more than casting a ballot; it is a deliberate choice to invest in our community's well-being. And it goes beyond health care; it's about investing in a great place to work, live and play, a great place to start or grow a business and raise a family.

When people and businesses see that we as a community prioritize high-quality health care, they in turn are more likely to move, stay, invest and expand here, driving job creation and economic growth and helping our community become the thriving place we know it can be.

A "yes" vote on Nov. 5 for the UNM

Monday, July 15, 2024 THE SUNDAY JOURNAL

## SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

Locally owned and independent, founded 1899

MY VIEW DEL ESPARZA, TERRI COLE AND SHERMAN MCCORKLE

## Special session can improve state's public safety crisis

"If not us, who? If not now, when?"

delivered to make their law clear (SBC 18-01) and made known by President Joe Kennedy.

the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce.

and a small team to start and drive a

a big bite out of the crime planning

our cities and towns. As these issues

a growing public safety crisis, we

reliable program — are not likely

to find ourselves a true or thorough

season. We look forward to fighting for

them come Jan. 15, 2025.

There should be no question that

criminals have been on the rise

for the last few years and that we

are taking our citizens' safety too often

to be taken off our chests. It's not like

the situation of some years ago when

more police and complete we can be

in our data collection, the more we can

be in identifying crime drivers

to people, places, weapons, vehicles

etc. — and efficiently addressing them

to public safety.

■ **Strengthen criminal competency**

status and broaden the definitions of

danger to self and to others in the invol-

untary commitment statute.

New Mexico's version of Kansas's

Law was enacted in 2004 to help it

see what

library is

every day

to New Mexico

it is a deadly waiting to happen.

■ **Require law enforcement agencies**

to report certain monthly crime sta-

tics reports and failure information.

The chamber has long been a pro-

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## POLICY MEETINGS AND NEGOTIATIONS, AND POLICY CAMPAIGNS

The Chamber works alongside coalition partners to develop public policy proposals, negotiate the details of these proposals with local and state officials, and advocate for their passage. The Chamber is currently working closely with higher education leaders and state legislators and staff to develop policies that strengthen school leadership development in New Mexico. From time to time, the Chamber weighs in on ballot items that have a tie to our advocacy work, such as those related to funding public projects like the Gateway Center and UNM Hospital.

## LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND AGENCIES

The Chamber frequently expresses the viewpoints of the business community in letters to elected and appointed local, state and national decision makers. In recent months the Chamber has written letters in support of a wide range of issues – including Bernalillo County's Trade Port, the Albuquerque Rail Trail, federal funding to update the City Clerk Office's record keeping, a state grant for the Colfax County airport, the Indian Pueblo Dance Program, making financial literacy a state graduation requirement and building a soccer stadium at Balloon Fiesta Park. The Chamber is proud so many individuals, businesses and private and government organizations value its voice and want its leaders to weigh in on the issues of the day.





# ADVOCACY AT THE ROUNDHOUSE

## STRONG PRESENCE IN SANTA FE

### Legislative Agenda

Before each legislative session, the Chamber's Board approves an agenda of priorities with the perspective of the business community — everything from economic development incentives and tax policy to education and criminal justice. It is crafted with input of Chamber investors, EDTs and industry partners.

## 2024 REGULAR SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### In Crime and Public Safety

In addition to measures that hold defendants who are charged with a felony while on pre-trial release for a felony, and several that encourage law enforcement officers to put off/come out of retirement to shore up our law enforcement ranks (see page 8), the Chamber also successfully advocated for increasing the BASIC SENTENCE FOR SECOND-DEGREE MURDER to 9-18 years, up from 0-15 years.

### In Economic Development

WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION: \$950 million fully funds the state's Opportunity and Lottery scholarships, and \$100 million goes to career technical education, \$60 million to workforce training and apprenticeships at comprehensive community colleges, \$15 million to health professional loan repayment and \$11.5 million for faculty hiring at the University of New Mexico School of Public Health.

INCENTIVES AND MARKETING \$750 million goes to roads and highways, plus \$10 million to mainstreet programs, \$10.5 million to the Local Economic Development Act, \$6.7 million to the Job Training Incentive Program, \$16 million for national tourism advertising and \$1 million for tourism cooperative marketing and advertising and the travel trade program.

THE HOUSING CRUNCH The Opportunity Enterprise Act of 2022 expands to include affordable and workforce housing.

### In Education

CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITY LEASES AND LOANS provides fiscal certainty to charter schools by making grants for facility lease payments mandatory.

SMARTER SCHOOL BOARD TRAINING requires 10 training hours for new school board members and charter school governing board members, as well as what that training should cover.

SCHOLARSHIP CHANGES THAT SERVE STUDENTS updates the Legislative Lottery and Opportunity Scholarships to count credit requirements on a per-year basis instead of per-semester, makes summer semesters eligible and allows high school students to earn dual credit without counting against their credits covered by the scholarships.



The 2024 Legislative Summary is available at [greater-abq.com](http://greater-abq.com)

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY:

Each year, the Chamber publishes a comprehensive "Legislative Summary" that provides business leaders with information about what happened in Santa Fe during the session — including key successes for the business community as well as concerns.



## 'LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP'

During the session, the Chamber publishes a nightly legislative recap (heralded as a "must-read" by Roundhouse watchers, legislators and local businesses) that keeps investors and our partners apprised of what the Chamber is advocating for — and against — in the Roundhouse.



# ADVOCACY IN WASHINGTON

**Last December**, as it has in years past, the Chamber took a group of business leaders and local government officials to Washington, D.C., for a series of meetings with members of New Mexico's congressional delegation and national organization leaders. Over the course of three days, the group met with all five members who represent New Mexico in Washington, D.C.: Sen. Martin Heinrich, Sen. Ben Ray Luján, Rep. Melanie Stansbury, Rep. Gabe Vasquez and Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez. (The Chamber will be returning to Washington, D.C., Dec. 10-13, 2024).

Our senators and representatives were generous with their time and excited to sit down with fellow New Mexicans. They opened up their Senate and House offices to share what they were working on and took notes as members of the Chamber group discussed concerns that are top of mind for New Mexico business leaders, including the promise of Bernalillo County's trade port and Albuquerque's Rail Trail projects, as well as the important role high-quality charter schools are playing in turning around our K-12 landscape.

There is no question these discussions pay dividends. Look no further than the fact several Chamber D.C. Fly-In trips focused on charter school funding — and Public Charter Schools of New Mexico just earned a five-year, \$52 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to open new public charter schools, expand existing schools and replicate high-performing charter schools across the state.

## The Chamber group also met with:

- > National Alliance for Public Charter Schools to discuss national trends in charter school authorization and expansion and the Chamber's work to advance charter school growth in New Mexico.
- > U.S. Chamber of Commerce for a briefing on current federal issues and where chambers of commerce fit into the mix as trusted local and state advocates.
- > American Enterprise Institute for a briefing on education reforms. AEI's Robert Pondiscio will in turn visit Albuquerque as the Chamber's keynote speaker at our 2024 Annual Meeting to further explore the topic.



FROM TOP: The Chamber took a group to Washington, D.C. in December 2023. A group will once again travel to Washington in December 2024. SECOND FROM TOP: Chamber members meet with Rep. Melanie Stansbury. THIRD FROM TOP: Chamber members meet with Rep. Gabe Vasquez. ABOVE: Chamber members meet with Sen. Martin Heinrich in his Washington, D.C. office.



# CONNECTIONS

## BUSINESS RESOURCES



### FREE MEETING SPACE

Have your meetings at the Chamber's modern and comfortable Downtown office across from Civic Plaza. With three conference rooms of various sizes to choose from, your team can reserve the room that fits your headcount. Our conference rooms include AV connectivity with display monitors. Bathrooms are conveniently located in the building.

### RIBBON CUTTINGS FOR IMPORTANT EVENTS

The Chamber helps its investors celebrate important milestones with ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Promotion of these events is shared at Chamber Board meetings and distributed to Chamber investors and local media.

### BUSINESS PROMOTION VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

Our investors' latest news, announcements, programs and specials are routinely promoted on the Chamber's social media platforms.

### INTRODUCTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Chamber facilitates introductions and networking to help local businesses find solutions to problems, strengthen partnerships and start new ventures that will serve the community.

### ADVERTISING AND EXPOSURE FOR CHAMBER INVESTORS

Chamber investors can submit announcements about upcoming events, sales, promotions or programs to be included in a twice-monthly "Investor Deals and Announcements" distribution.

### CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN

The Chamber issues certification documentation for goods produced in New Mexico that are sold internationally.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

### Business Beat News Summary

The Chamber sends a roundup of important news items on weekdays to the Leadership Circle and Board of Directors. This provides convenient and efficient access to relevant news information, especially when traveling or in meetings.

### 'News and Views' Weekly E-Newsletter

The Chamber publishes a regular e-newsletter to inform our investors on the latest developments surrounding important policy issues, as well as report on the activity at the Chamber's signatures events and Board meetings.



### 'Legislative Roundup'

During the session, the Chamber publishes a nightly legislative recap-heralded as a "must-read" by Roundhouse watchers, legislators and local businesses that keeps investors and our partners apprised of what's going on in the Legislature.



### Breaking News Alerts and Calls to Action

When major news breaks that affects the business community or a significant action is taken by the Legislature or City Council, the Chamber sends alerts to its investors to ensure they are well informed. Also, prior to key votes or decisions on public policy matters that impact economic growth, the Chamber sends "call to action" emails that urge businesses to make contact with particular elected and appointed officials.



# BUSINESS TO GOVERNMENT

## SIGNATURE EVENTS WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS

Each year, the Chamber hosts several large events featuring local, state and federal leaders. These include our annual Congressional Series with members of New Mexico's congressional delegation, a post-legislative session reception with Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and events with prominent community leaders such as Mayor Tim Keller, Attorney General Raúl Torrez, UNM President Garnett Stokes, CNM President Tracy Hartzler, District Attorney Sam Bregman and many others.

## ACCESS AND PROBLEM-SOLVING CONNECTIONS STATEWIDE

The Chamber helps its investors navigate government more easily, including connecting businesses to government agencies or leaders when they have concerns or need assistance.

# BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

## 'SHAKERS AND STIRRERS' NETWORKING EVENTS

The Chamber holds engaging luncheons and after-hours events that allow Albuquerque professionals to extend their networks in an exclusive, entertaining environment. We hold these events multiple times per year at unique, local venues. For a full schedule, see page 22.

### Upcoming Events:

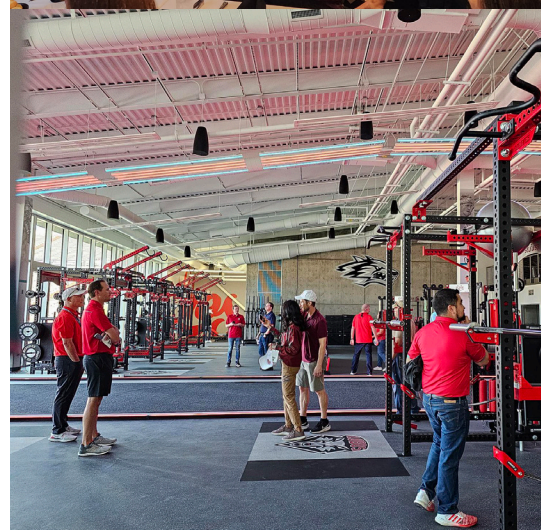
- > UNM Football Game — October 12, 2024
- > Fogo de Chao Restaurant — Feb. 11, 2025
- > Electric Playhouse — March 5, 2025
- > Isotopes Baseball Game — May 2025 (Date TBD)
- > Unirac Facility Tour — May 29, 2025

## NEW MEXICO ROADRUNNERS

The New Mexico Roadrunners are the Chamber's goodwill ambassador team. This goodwill group travels throughout the state of New Mexico to establish and build closer relationships. This team also participates in celebratory activities such as member anniversaries, ribbon cuttings and special events. This is a great business-building opportunity!

## CHAMBER EXCLUSIVE REFERRALS PROGRAM

When businesses or members of the general public ask the Chamber for guidance in finding a certain type of product or service in the Albuquerque metro, the Chamber staff refer them exclusively to our investor companies.



For questions about joining the Chamber and partnering in our important work, please call (505) 764-3700 today.



# Connecting New Mexicans to What Matters

- \$560.2M

Capital expenditures, employee wages and benefits, taxes and fees, and charitable giving investments in New Mexico in the last three years.
- \$257.5M

Technology and infrastructure investments in New Mexico in the last three years, including upgrades to our network.
- \$13.6M

Total cash and in-kind charitable contributions to New Mexico nonprofits in the last three years.

visit [newmexico.comcast.com](http://newmexico.comcast.com)



## THE BOOK OF LISTS. IT WORKS.

TO SEE FULL SUCCESS STORIES:  
[BIZJOURNALS.COM/BOOK](http://BIZJOURNALS.COM/BOOK)

“Whatever you do, make sure you have a presence in the Book of Lists.”

“We can absolutely attribute a measurable increase in our brand’s recognition and prestige.”

“When I build our marketing plan I start with The Book of Lists.”

### ADVERTISE IN THE 2024-2025 BOOK OF LISTS

Contact Will Martinez to secure your premium position:  
[wmartinez@bizjournals.com](mailto:wmartinez@bizjournals.com)

**B O O K of L I S T S**



ALBUQUERQUE **BUSINESS FIRST**

STRONG READER ENGAGEMENT | YEAR-ROUND EXPOSURE | EXECUTIVE RESOURCE



# GIVE THE GIFT OF LITERACY ALBUQUERQUE READS NEEDS TUTORS!



Albuquerque Reads, a program of the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Albuquerque Public Schools, relies on its many volunteer tutors to help some of our youngest students gain the life-changing skills of reading and writing.

Michelle Donaldson, ABQ Reads chairwoman, GACC Board member and KOB-TV general manager, knows that Albuquerque Reads is a game changer for learning, especially for kids who struggle with reading and fall behind.

“The power of one-on-one tutoring is what makes Albuquerque Reads so effective. By moving kids up in reading level, a wider world of learning is opened to them,” Donaldson says. “Albuquerque Reads is a chance for volunteers to make an immediate impact on Day One. Giving a child the confidence and joy of reading is a life-long gift. It changes the educational opportunities and outcomes in a substantial way.”

Tutors volunteer in any of three of Albuquerque Public Schools’ Title I schools — Atrisco, Bel Air and Whittier elementaries. They donate 90 minutes a week, and those who prefer to join a team can volunteer just one week a month.



Albuquerque Reads is always looking for new volunteers to join the ranks of this dedicated group. (Some volunteers have been with the program the full 20-plus years!) Tutor training is done year-round.

**Check out [ABQReads.com](http://ABQReads.com) for more information on the program and becoming a tutor or contact program Director Kayla Nelson at [abqreads@greaterabq.com](mailto:abqreads@greaterabq.com) or (505) 843-7323.**

## Readers Become Leaders

ExxonMobil is proud to support reading programs in New Mexico like ABQ Reads.

**ExxonMobil**







# CHAMBER LEADERSHIP

Del Esparza, GACC Chairman of the Board, asks a question during the GACC's 2024 Education BIG event.





**Del Esparza**

Chairman of the Board

- > Founder and CEO of Esparza Advertising, a marketing firm internationally recognized for industry-best work
- > Has served on the Chamber's board for 19 years and as the chair of Chamber's public safety and Downtown revitalization policy committees
- > The published author of The Next Dinosaur, a guide for small and mid-sized businesses as they transition from brick-and-mortars to ecommerce
- > Active on many community boards, including the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City



**Terri Cole**

President and CEO

- > Joined the Chamber staff in 1978 and has served as President and CEO for 41 years
- > The first female to lead a big-city chamber of commerce in the U.S. and the first female to lead the American Chamber of Commerce Executive Association
- > Certified Chamber Executive, CCE professional designation, 1988
- > Graduate, Institute of Organization Management, 1986
- > Chair, Stanford Institute of Organization Management, 1991, and faculty member



**Peter Lorenz**

Chair-Elect

- > Serves as CEO of Unirac Inc., 2011-present
- > 20-plus years experience in the electric power and renewables industry, including leadership roles at Quanta Service (PWR), McKinsey & Co and Royal Dutch Shell (RDS)
- > Vice Chair and Founding board member of Solare Collegiate Charter School in the South Valley

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 2024-2025 Executive Committee



**Bruce Stidworthy**

Immediate Past Chair,  
Local Government  
Advocacy Chair  
Bohannon Huston Inc.



**Doug Majewski**

Downtown Transformation  
BIG Chair  
Hartman+Majewski Design  
Group



**Don Tarry**

Member At-Large  
PNM Resources



**Kellie Mixon**

Treasurer  
New Mexico Mutual



**Sherman McCorkle**

Legislative Session and  
State Government  
Advocacy Chair  
Sandia Science and  
Technology Park



**Kevin Eades**

CANs Chair  
Molzen-Corbin & Associates



**Del Archuleta**

Education BIG Chair  
Molzen-Corbin &  
Associates



**David Campbell**

Leadership Albuquerque  
Chair  
Lobo Development  
Corporation



**Tom Jenkins**

EDTs Chair  
Real Estate Advisors



**Scott Hindman**

Public Safety BIG Chair  
Excellent Schools New Mexico



**Shad James**

Member At-Large  
Jaynes Corporation



**Michelle Donaldson**

ABQ Reads Chair  
KOB-TV



**Leean Kravitz**

Federal Advocacy Chair  
Fidelity Investments

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Board members

**Rick Alvidrez**

Miller Stratvert Law Firm

**Joe Christian**

Nusenda Credit Union

**Lauren Madigan**

Presbyterian Healthcare Services

**Brian Rule**

Blake's Lotaburger

**Tom Antram**

French Funerals  
& Cremations

**Steven Conyne**

BlueHalo

**Paul Madrid**

Madrid Wealth  
Management

**Keith Sampson**

Wagner Equipment

**Kyle Beasley**

Bank of Albuquerque

**Dale Dekker**

Dekker

**Marsha Majors**

US Eagle Federal Credit  
Union

**John Santoru**

Holmans USA

**Kate Becker**

UNM Hospitals

**Chris Dunkeson**

Comcast

**Ryan McGrath**

Wells Fargo, N.A.

**Amanda Scarano**

Netflix Studios

**Norman Becker**

Consultant

**Frank Gallegos**

Intel Corporation

**Margaret Meister**

Modrall Sperling Law  
Firm

**Ryan Shell**

New Mexico Gas  
Company

**Nimish Bhatt**

Thornburg Investment  
Management

**Angela Gonzales**

Pattern Energy

**Bill Miera**

Fiore Industries Inc.

**Paul Silverman**

Geltmore, LLC

**Nadyne Bicknell**

Consultant

**Carlos Hernandez**

United Supermarkets

**Sue Millspaugh**

Waterstone Mortgage

**Mariposa Padilla Sivage**

Sutin, Thayer & Browne

**Tom Briones**

Briones Business Law  
Consulting

**Rob Hester**

Amazon

**Chris Mueller**

SUMCO

**Andy Strebe**

Chalmers Ford

**David Buchanan**

U.S. Bank

**Justin Horwitz**

Rodey Law Firm

**Jeremy Oswald**

Citizens Bank

**Brett Thompson**

KPMG LLP

**Jessica Bundy**

REDW LLC

**Carolyn Ingram**

Molina Healthcare

**Matt Rarden**

Kirtland Credit Union

**Janice Torrez**

Blue Cross Blue Shield  
of New Mexico

**Mike Canfield**

Indian Pueblo Cultural  
Center

**Greg Leyendecker**

New Mexico Bank & Trust

**Dr. Michael Richards**

UNM Health Sciences  
Center

**Dr. Robert Rubin**

Lovelace Biomedical  
Research Institute

**Heather Zschoche**

General Mills

## HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

**Dr. Gabriella Durán  
Blakey**

Albuquerque  
Public Schools

**David Gibson**

Sandia National  
Laboratory

**Tracy Hartzler**

Central New  
Mexico Community  
College

**Colonel Michael  
Power**

Kirtland Air Force  
Base

**Garnett S. Stokes,  
PhD.**

University of  
New Mexico



# PAST BOARD CHAIRS

**1917** – Max Nordhaus  
**1918** – A.B. McMillen  
**1919** – W.C. Oestreich  
**1920** – Dr. Leroy S. Peters  
**1921** – G.E. Breece  
**1922** – R.E. Putney  
**1923** – Arthur Prager  
**1924** – Allen Bruce  
**1925-27** – Ira N. Sprecher  
**1928** – Clyde Oden  
**1929** – Sol Benjamin  
**1930** – E.N. Boule  
**1931-34** – Clyde Oden  
**1935-41** – Oscar Love Sr.  
**1942-45** – Clyde Oden  
**1946** – Charles Broome  
**1950** – Elmer Elliot  
**1951** – Don Woodward  
**1952** – Robert Fitzgerald  
**1953** – Robert L. Tripp  
**1958** – R.P. Tinnin  
**1959** – Sam Brown  
**1960** – Archie Westfall  
**1961** – Edward L. Jory  
**1962** – Charles S. Lanier

**1963** – Caswell U. Forrest  
**1964** – Arthur L. Welsh  
**1965** – Jack Jones  
**1966** – Gene E. Hinkle  
**1967** – W.D. “Dub” James  
**1968** – Alfred Valdez  
**1969** – Frank M. Schifani  
**1970** – Jim Summers  
**1971** – Mahlon Love  
**1972** – Jerry D. Geist  
**1973** – Robert P. Matteucci  
**1974** – Thomas P. Ryan  
**1975** – John P. Salazar  
**1976** – Richard F. Mather  
**1977** – Jack Westman  
**1978** – Robert Hoffman  
**1979** – Bill Trembly  
**1980** – Chet Caldwell  
**1981** – Lee B. Zink  
**1982** – William G. “Bing” Grady  
**1983** – Roy W. Bidwell  
**1984** – J.B. “Bud” Mulcock Jr.  
**1985** – J. Howard Mock  
**1986** – Robert E. Jancar

**1987** – I.B. Hoover Jr.  
**1988-89** – Sherman McCorkle  
**1989-90** – Joyce Godwin  
**1990-91** – George Friberg  
**1991-92** – Tony Strati  
**1992-93** – Joseph McCabe  
**1993-94** – Don K. Padgett  
**1994-95** – Donald E. Kawal  
**1995-96** – Bob McCabe  
**1996-97** – Jeff Sterba  
**1997-98** – Kathleen Avila  
**1998-99** – Victor J. Chavez  
**1999-2000** – Adelmo (Del) Archuleta  
**2000-01** – Rick Alvidrez  
**2001-02** – Michael Stanford  
**2002-03** – Norman Becker  
**2003-04** – Jesse D. Dompereh  
**2004-05** – James H. Hinton  
**2005-06** – Cindy McGill  
**2006-07** – Lonnie Talbert  
**2007-08** – Paul Sowards

**2008-09** – Don Chalmers  
**July 1, 2009 – Jan. 22, 2010**  
 – Michael Zientek  
**Jan. 23, 2010 – June 30, 2010**  
 – Adelmo (Del) Archuleta  
**2010-11** – Pat Vincent-Collawn  
**2011-12** – Jed Fanning  
**2012-13** – Dr. Paul Roth  
**2013-14** – Elizabeth Shipley  
**2014-15** – Adelmo (Del) Archuleta  
**2015-16** – Elizabeth Shipley  
**2016-17** – Tom Antram  
**2017-18** – Meg Meister  
**2018-19** – Pat Vincent-Collawn  
**2019-20** – Mike Canfield  
**2020-21** – Kyle Beasley  
**2021-22** – Norm Becker  
**2022-23** – Peter Lorenz  
**2023-24** – Bruce Stidworthy



# CHAMBER LEADERSHIP CIRCLE





# CHAMBER LEADERSHIP CIRCLE



- > Invitations to exclusive events, receptions, and tours
- > Advance access to the Chamber's various policy reports
- > Priority consideration for applications to Leadership ABQ

- > Subscription to the daily "Business Beat," a short e-compilation of important business and community news... and more



## Powering Real Progress.

PNM is more than an energy provider - we are proud to be a part of our local communities. We're committed to reducing carbon emissions and preserving our remarkable New Mexico environment.

**PNM.com**



*Powering New Mexico  
Together.*