



NORTHERN AREA NEWSLETTER

-February 2023

Conference Highlights

New Mexico
Workforce Connection
A Proud Partner of the American Job Center Network

Message from the board:

The Northern Areal Local Workforce Development Board takes pride in the efforts made across all communities to assure the voices of customers, partners, resources, employers, employees, students, educators, and CEOs are heard. The Northern Region Workforce Professional Development Conference was well attended by individuals from every all counties within the Northern Region. Northern New Mexico really showed up to advocate for themselves, and for those they represent and aspired conversation across counties and industries in the North. Together, we can take these conversation to the next level and assure the continued growth of our local workforce to fill active positions while training and preparing for projected growth.

-NALWDB



Board Chair-Joseph Weathers

Executive Director-Lisa Ortiz

Operations Manager-Barney Trujillo

Project Specialist/Communications-Amber Gomez

Program Specialist-Brittany Valencia

Program/Policy Monitor-Kevin Boyer

One-Stop Operator-Ericka Van Eckhoutte

OS Administrative Assistant-Valorie Valdez

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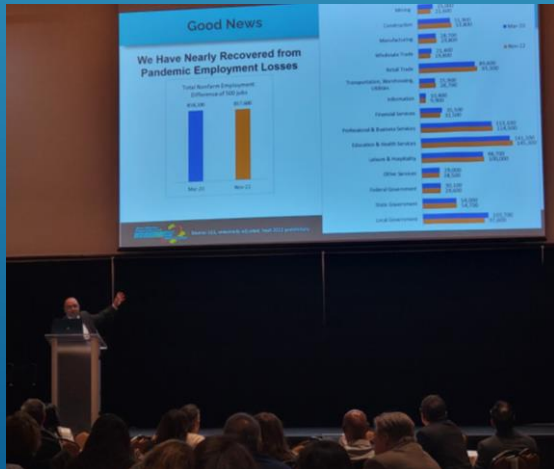
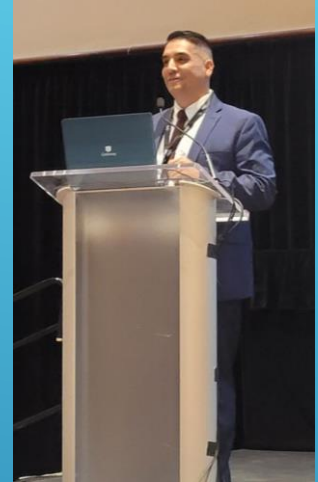
Opening Remarks



The Inaugural Northern Region Workforce Professional Development Conference kicked-off with opening remarks made by Santa Fe County Clerk Katharine Clark. Clerk Clark spoke about the importance of this conference before introducing Deputy Secretary, Marcos Martinez. Secretary Martinez presented a plethora of information about post-covid workforce and shared the successes NM has seen since.



Attendees also heard from One-Stop Operator, Ericka Van Eckhoutte, and Operations Manager, Barney Trujillo, about the role of a Workforce Board.





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Breakout Session I:

Data and Analysis

Breakout Session I was focused on the presentation of local data, pulled from the Workforce Connection Online System, regarding workforce and education and a panel-led discussion of the successes and opportunities within each area.

- Northwest (San Juan, McKinley, Cibola)
- Northcentral (Taos, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe)
- Northeast (Colfax, Mora, San Miguel)



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Afternoon Remarks

Lt. Governor Howie Morales



Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales, raised in Silver City, New Mexico, has spent his whole life working to improve the lives of people in his community and across our state. He served in the New Mexico Legislature on the Legislative Finance Committee for 11 years. A classroom teacher and proven leader who stands up for seniors and public education, he said “No more cuts to New Mexico’s classrooms.” Howie Morales has fought to protect our most vulnerable communities and local schools, to build a fair economy that works for all of us, and to move New Mexico forward.

Since 2008, Howie has been an aggressive leader for children and classrooms in the State Senate, fighting for his district, and to make every corner of New Mexico a better place to live. He has pushed progressive policies such as universal health care. He fought for rural and tribal economic development, and he fought to protect veterans’ and senior services across the state, and mental health programs.

An experienced leader with solutions, Howie Morales has a solid record helping to lead the effort to meet our state’s big challenges for better jobs and wages, and real improvements to public education.





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Keynote Speaker

Dr. Thomas Mason

Representing the largest employer in Northern New Mexico, Dr. Thomas Mason. With a PhD in Experimental Condensed Matter Physics, Dr. Mason has spent over 30 years involved in the design and construction of scientific instrumentation and facilities, and the application of nuclear, computing, and materials sciences to solve important challenges in energy and national security. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Mason worked at Oak ridge National Laboratory for 19 years, including 10 years and the Laboratory Director. Dr. Mason was appointed as the Director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the 12th Director in it's 80-year history, in 2018.



80 years of service to the nation

- In 1943, Los Alamos National Laboratory was founded with a single, urgent purpose: to build an atomic bomb.
- Today, LANL focuses on maintaining a strategic nuclear deterrent and protecting the nation's security.
 - With geopolitical tensions high around the globe (Ukraine, Russia, China, Iran, North Korea), our mission is more important now than at any point since the Cold War.
- Our workers, facilities and instruments:
 - Ensure our deterrent is safe, secure and reliable
 - Detect weapons of mass destruction
 - Promote cooperation and diplomacy
 - Limit nuclear arms and the spread of nuclear materials, technology and expertise
 - Advance the frontiers of science, engineering and computing



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Board and Legislative Recognition

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Board Members

- Floyd Archuleta-Owner/CEO Amigo Promotions, LLC
- Krutik Bhakta-Owner/Operator Best Western Montezuma Inn
- Sarah Boisvert-Fab Lab Hub
- Rebecca Estrada-Community Outreach Specialist LANL
- Maria Herrera-Area Manager DWS
- Vince Howell-General Manager Phillips 66
- Kristen Krell-SFCC
- Mario Lucero-Program Manager DVR
- Pablo Lujan-Ken's Cuisine
- Chris Madrid-Community Director NCNMEDD
- Patricia Maule-Clinical Scholar/Nursing Education SJRMC
- Sean Medrano-Owner Northeastern Construction
- Jolene Nelson-Owner Rose Water Farms, LLC
- Dr. Lorenzo Reyes-SJC
- David Romero-Romero's Automotive
- John Paul Romero-Owner Cordova Contracting & Development
- Kevin Romero-Finance Deputy Director NM Commission for the Blind
- Joseph Weathers-CEO/Executive Director Tapetes de Lana
- Eileen Yarborough-Executive Director Cibola Communities Economic Development



During lunch, Board Chair, Joseph Weathers, took time to recognize local State Representatives, Ambrose Castellano (San Miguel and Torrance) and Joseph Sanchez (Colfax, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, and Taos), as well as Northern Area Local Workforce Development Board members.



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Breakout Session II: Industry Experts



Breakout Session II brought Industry Experts together to discuss current and future projections and industry-specific needs to create a workforce pipeline and generate retention strategies within 4 key sectors.



- Healthcare
- Hospitality
- Trades
- Information Technology





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After-Hours Reception

Rio Chama

The after-hours reception, sponsored by HELP New Mexico, Inc., was held at Rio Chama. The venue was bustling as partners and Legislators came together to enjoy the company of each other and the entertainment provided by local music group, Bones, Anders and Anthony Lucero.



During the reception, HELPNM President, Roger Gonzales, and Board Chair, Joseph Weathers, presented a Nambé Canopy Bowl, representing the four Workforce Development Boards of NM, to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. Mr. Gonzales and Mr. Weathers shared their gratitude for the work being done drive efforts into Northern New Mexico as it recovers from devastation. This gift was accepted on behalf of the Governor by Cabinet Secretary Sarita Nair.



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WIN Presentation

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On day 2, attendees gathered in the ballroom as Representative Tara Lujan introduced Commissioner Camilla Bustamante.

Commissioner Bustamante presented the goal of WIN (Workforce Integrated Network); to establish the WIN support service network that enhances existing support services to better meet the needs of our clients so they can gain dutiful employment and improve their quality of life in the region. This presentation invited and encouraged partners and resources to come together to better serve the un and under-employed population of Northern New Mexico.



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Key Players Panel

The NALWDB brought community leaders to the table to address the workforce gaps in Northern New Mexico, while providing legislative insight and local opportunities to attendees.

(Left to Right)

- Gil Vigil-ENIPC Executive Director
- Bridget Dixon-Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce President
 - Joseph Maestas-NM State Auditor
- Michelle Velarde-Field Operations Director NMDWS
- Patricia Trujillo-Deputy Secretary of Higher Education



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Vendors





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The NALWDB would like to thank all sponsors, partners, and attendees for making the Northern Region Workforce Professional Development Conference a success!

Including, but not limited to:



- [HELP New Mexico, Inc.](#)
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- [Santa Fe School of Cooking](#)
- [YouthWorks](#)
- [Santa Fe Convention Center](#)
- [Rio Chama](#)
- [Representative Tara Lujan](#)
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- [Northern Area Local Workforce Development Board Members and CEOs](#)
- Panelists and Vendors
- Attendees

