



Hanna Skandera
Secretary

New Mexico
Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501-2786
www.ped.state.nm.us

Robert McEntyre
Public Information Officer
(505) 470-2620
Robert.McEntyre2@state.nm.us

NEWS RELEASE

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NM Public Education Department Announces 2015-2016 Teacher Advisory Committee members

SANTA FE, NM – Today, the Public Education Department announced that 17 teachers have been selected to serve on the 2015-2016 Secretary’s Teacher Advisory Committee. The following educators were selected to serve on the 2015-2016 Secretary’s Teacher Advisory:

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u> |
|--------------------|---|
| Juan Aragon | Albuquerque Public Schools |
| Kevin Balder | Albuquerque Public Schools |
| Lisa Begay | Belen Consolidated Schools |
| Robin Bellah | Farmington Municipal Schools |
| Catherine Brijalba | Hobbs Municipal Schools |
| Teresa Damron | Clovis Municipal Schools |
| Emanuel Davila | Alamogordo Public Schools |
| Jerry Delmore | Albuquerque Institute for Mathematics and Science |
| Alicia Duran | Albuquerque Public Schools |
| Rhonda Gardner | Academy for Technology and the Classics |
| Perri Hathorn | Eunice Municipal Schools |
| Joshua Johnson | Las Cruces Public Schools |
| Robbie Larriva | Gadsden Independent Schools |
| Jody Martinez | Cimarron Municipal Schools |
| Simon Miera | Pecos Independent Schools |
| Hope Morales | Roswell Independent Schools |

“Day in and day out, our teachers are the difference-makers in the classroom for our kids,” said New Mexico Secretary of Education Hanna Skandera. “More than anyone else, New Mexico’s teachers have a great pulse on what is happening in their classrooms and school. I look forward to working with the advisory committee and listening to their ideas to improve education.”

More than 100 educators were nominated by their district superintendents and charter school administrators after the Public Education Department issued a call for nominations in July of 2015. The educators selected to serve on the Secretary’s 2015-2016 Teacher Advisory represent diverse regions throughout the New Mexico. They are well-respected by their peers, exhibit professionalism, participate in

ongoing professional development, and possess the desire to collaborate to improve education for our students.

Teacher Advisory members will meet with Secretary Skandera quarterly to provide valuable insight into education issues across the state. The Secretary's Teacher Advisory will have the opportunity to contribute to the policy-making process, and will ultimately help serve New Mexico's students better by establishing solutions-oriented connection between the PED and educators. The advisory committee's agenda and topics of discussion will be determined by members serving on the committee.

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