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Community Advisory panel re-established for PED *Group to advise Secretary Steinhaus on education policies, programs*

SANTA FE — Fifty-four New Mexico teachers, students, family members and business leaders will meet virtually for the first time Saturday to begin advising Public Education Secretary (Designate) Kurt Steinhaus on statewide education policies, programs and initiatives.

The Secretary's Community Advisory is an avenue for community feedback on essential programming in public education while also promoting equity and access to the business of public education.

"I formed this group because I'm committed to engaging with those who are most directly impacted by the Public Education Department's work, and by that I mean New Mexico's students, teachers, parents and business leaders," Steinhaus said. "I look forward to getting their feedback, and I hope this program will serve as a model to districts and schools for cultivating community partnerships."

The Public Education Department believes strong connections between school, home and community foster student success, and the Secretary's Community Advisory is a new outlet for that ongoing work.

Community advisors will:

- Inform the PED on resources, policies and programming communities need to ensure educational equity;
- Collaborate with other stakeholders in their community to provide feedback that represents diverse perspectives, experiences and needs;
- Support PED leadership in creating policies and statewide initiatives that promote equity and inclusion in New Mexico's public schools;
- Within the advisory, collaborate, research and identify effective statewide practices and strategies, and record recommendations;
- Learn about and advocate for innovative policies and legislation that help elevate public education; and
- Share the information, resources and insight gleaned from this experience with community members to catalyze and bolster engagement at the local level.

"This is about adding seats to the proverbial table. It's about sharing access, information and power with those who experience daily the impact of the decisions and policies made in Santa Fe," said Katie Avery, the department's director of Strategic Outreach. "No one is better equipped to inform the work of the Public Education Department than the communities we serve – we are grateful to those who responded to the invitation and eager to get to work."

The advisory group currently consists of 56 stakeholders total:

- 15 educators
- 13 parents or guardians
- 13 students

- 14 civic members -- three each from five geographical regions in New Mexico.

The Public Education Department is actively recruiting students and family members to bring those groups to 15 as well. Applicants from northern and southwestern New Mexico, historically under-represented areas, are strongly encouraged to apply by contacting community.engagement@state.nm.us.

The department used email, social media, newsletters and phone calls to invite New Mexicans to complete online applications and submit a letter of recommendation and two professional references. Candidates then were invited to a virtual interview with a panel of cross-agency PED staff.

The commitment is for one full calendar year. During that time, advisors will attend regular meetings, both virtual and in-person, and meet as needed with PED leadership and staff.

Secretary’s Community Advisory

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Andrea Humphrey	Albuquerque
Carla Williams	Albuquerque
Carol Hernandez	Moriarty-Edgewood
Elisabeth Gillett	Albuquerque
Elvira Dennison	Shiprock
Hope Morales	Roswell
Jennifer Cruz	Albuquerque
Jody Roberts	Albuquerque
Jonalyn J. Tagge-West	Farmington
Lindsey Sumulong	Las Cruces
Sarah Amador - Guzman	Santa Fe
Stephanie Mack	Albuquerque
Vanessa Roanhorse	Albuquerque

TEACHERS

Amanda Rankin	Belen
Anna Richards	Farmington
Carol Leyendecker	Albuquerque
Debra Woodward	Grants-Cibola
Elizabeth Kriegel	Deming

Jessica Martinez	Albuquerque
Karen Cereguas	Los Lunas
Linda Donwerth	Lovington
Marie Salas	Cimarron
Michael Ogas	Las Cruces
Nancy Johnson	Carlsbad
Rajasekhar Badditi	Clovis
Rebecca Spaeth	Rio Rancho
Tena Joslin	Farmington

CIVIC

Cynthia Nava	Albuquerque
Hillary McPartlon	Santa Fe
Carmen Gonzales	Santa Fe
Jean Hertzman	Las Cruces
Pamela Powers	Albuquerque
Karen Kinsman	Albuquerque
Kersti Tyson	Espanola/ Los Alamos
Patricia Jimenez-Latham	Albuquerque/Las Vegas
Abenecio Baldonado	Santa Fe
Angela Lopez	Albuquerque
David Romero	Las Vegas
Lina Germann	Santa Fe
Jaime Hernandez	Albuquerque
Alexis Esslinger	Farmington
Wynne Coleman	Rio Rancho

STUDENTS

Antonio Murua	Las Cruces
Carlyse Hernandez	Moriarty-Edgewood

Gavin Morrow	Des Moines
Hailey Mares	Bernalillo
Keana Huerta	Cobre
Kiley Carney	Albuquerque
Dublin Slack	Albuquerque
Liam Meyer	Las Cruces
Mariah Herrera	Cuba
Maximiliano Quintana	Santa Fe
Paloma Del Valle	Gadsden
Samuel Naranjo	Bernalillo
Tatiana Herrera	Albuquerque

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The New Mexico Public Education Department partners with educators, communities and families to ensure that all students are healthy, secure in their identity and holistically prepared for college, career and life. Currently, the NMPED serves more than 317,000 students in 187 districts and charter schools. Find an abundance of resources for administrators, educators, families and students at [New Mexico Public Education Department](#) or follow the NMPED on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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