Larry Allen has been involved in the exhibition side of motion pictures since January 1963. He served as President and CEO of Allen Theatres, from 1975 to 2016. His college career was cut short after his father passed when he was 19. Allen Theatres was established by his grandfather in 1912 and consisted of two drive-in screens and two indoor theater screens when his father passed. Larry, with his brother, Lane, built an additional theater complex in Farmington and then expanded the business to Las Cruces in 1982. Allen Theatres, Inc. now encompasses a total of 121 screens in eighteen locations across New Mexico and Colorado. According to Boxoffice Magazine, is now the 39th largest theatre chain in North America.

Larry’s business ventures are not all within the movie industry. He has owned other businesses such as TV stations, radio stations, restaurants, a background music company, polling companies, motels and oil rigs.

While in Farmington, Mr. Allen was an active member of the Boys and Girls club where he served one term as president, Rotary, National Association of Theatre Managers, and a member of a bank Board of Directors and member of the National Association Theatre Owners. Larry was awarded Business Leader of the Year by the Business Leaders Development Society, Colonel Aide-de-Camp from Lieutenant Governor Walter Bradley, NMSU Honorary Member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and serves as a member of the Aggie Athletic Club. In 2017 Allen Theatres was selected as the Outstanding Business in Philanthropy by the Association of Fundraising Processionals New Mexico chapter. Larry received an Honorary Degree from Dona Ana Community College in 2012. Larry and his wife, Diane, have 3 children and several grandchildren. They reside in Las Cruces.
Raquel Bone serves as a Client Advisor with JPMorgan Global Liquidity; the short-term investment division of J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Services provided include consultation and expertise on high-quality investment products to institutional investors around the globe to help them meet their liquidity investment goals.

Raquel began her career in 1994 with Tenneco Energy in Houston, TX as a financial analyst and natural gas trader and transitioned into trading power with Koch Energy in 1996. She joined J.P. Morgan in 1997 in the Product and Relationship Management/Credit Training program where she rotated through various lines of business including Global Syndicated Finance, Commercial Banking and Capital Markets. In 1998, Raquel joined J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc. in the Capital Markets group where she spent 8 years on the Short Term Fixed Income desk working with private and public companies in managing their working capital through short term investment vehicles. In July of 2006, Raquel was offered a Senior Investment Advisor position in Private Wealth Management which was followed by a promotion to a Private Banker role in 2008. In November 2010, Raquel relocated to Irvine, California where she was hired as a Senior Product Manager in Treasury & Securities Services Liquidity Solutions.

Raquel holds an MBA and Bachelors of Business Administration degree from New Mexico State University, an MPA from the University of Southern California and six FINRA licenses including Series 7, 9,10, 24 63 and 66. She currently serves on the Foundation Board for New Mexico State University where she has a scholarship endowment in her name given out each semester for a high achieving incoming minority high school student.


Raquel has a passion for mentoring, college recruiting, the arts and helping to uplift those who are in need. She formerly served as a board member on a homeless non-profit and a black theatre organization in Houston. In her spare time Raquel enjoys international travel and running; having completed 20 marathons both domestic and international.
Jagdev “Jag” Cheema is a financial advisor with Wells Fargo in Las Cruces. Prior to this he was a financial advisor with Raymond James Financial Services, and before that with Cambridge Investment Research. From 1988-2001, he ran Jag Cheema Insurance.

Mr. Cheema is a member of the Gerald Thomas Society at NMSU. He is a financial supporter of Athletics, Mechanical Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and the President’s Associates Scholars. In 2011, the Rotary Club of Las Cruces honored Mr. Cheema for his service on the Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico board of directors.

Mr. Cheema is a graduate of Texas A&M - Corpus Christi. He is married to Linda Cheema. They have two sons.
Philip Cook has over 20 years of financial experience in the oil and gas industry. He is currently the Chief Financial Officer of Primexx Energy Partners, an industry-leading private-equity backed independent exploration and production company focused in the Delaware Basin in West Texas. He previously worked at Samson Resources a privately held independent exploration and production company. Prior to that, he worked as Executive Vice President and CFO of Quicksilver Resources, a publicly traded Texas-based natural gas and oil exploration and production company. Before that, Mr. Cook served as CFO for other private energy companies and held various executive positions at Burlington Resources, including serving as the company’s Chief Accounting Officer, before it was acquired by ConocoPhillips.

Beyond his service as a NMSU Foundation Board Member, Mr. Cook recently served on the Board of Directors of the Tulsa Area United Way. He also served from 2006 to 2012, as a board member for the Fort Worth Opera Board of Trustees, served from 2005 to 2012 in various director roles and ultimately President of the Alliance for Children, Inc., and as the Director of the Children’s Advocacy Network of Tarrant County whose mission is the well-being of children. Mr. Cook also served on the Fort Worth Board for the Boy Scouts of America from 2009 until 2012 and is an Eagle Scout.

Mr. Cook received his Bachelor of Accountancy from NMSU in 1984. He is married to Sandy Janssen Cook (B.Acc. 1982). They have two children and currently reside in Dallas Texas.
John Cordova has spent more than thirty-four years in the sports business industry, beginning in the early 1980’s when sports marketing burst onto the scene as the newest trend in breakthrough brand marketing strategy. As a result of a wide variety of sports roles within league, team and sponsor organizations, John has been fortunate to construct one of the more diverse resumes in the business.

Originally employed at Texas Instruments (Lubbock, TX), in its fledgling home computer division, John began his sports business career as a member of the Executive Development Program at the Major League Baseball Commissioners Office (New York) in 1983-84. At the Commissioner’s Office he was given the opportunity to experience and excel in many aspects of the “business” of sports ranging from public relations, player records, minor league operations, licensing, corporate sponsorship and television production.

At the conclusion of the 1984 MLB season John joined the Miller Brewing Company (Milwaukee, WI) as Coordinator, Sports Marketing. As a part of the Miller Sports Marketing team John managed Miller’s sports marketing efforts with Major League Baseball, the United States Football League and the Major Indoor Soccer League. After a successful stint managing those properties, John was promoted to Manager, Pro Sports Marketing where he directed all of Miller’s pro sports marketing efforts against the NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB, PBA Tour and Olympics.

In 1988, John was recruited by former Major League Baseball Commissioner, Bud Selig, to join the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club with a vision to “redesign” the club’s marketing efforts in preparation for new Miller Park. John joined the club as a Director, ultimately earning the title of Vice President, Marketing. During his tenure with the Brewers, the club embarked on many new marketing initiatives which included the preliminary planning on Miller Park, as well as the pioneering of the first home plate signage concept in MLB.

Since 1994 John has been an integral part of The Coca-Cola Company’s (Atlanta, GA) domestic pro sports marketing efforts. Serving in various roles ranging from Director, Sports Marketing to his current role as Group Director, Sports Management; John has been a key player in the reinvention and continued development of Coca-Cola’s strategic approach to sports business partnerships.

A native of Denver, Colorado, John graduated from New Mexico State University (Las Cruces, NM) with a BA in Business Management (1981) and an MBA (1983).

John earned a football scholarship to NMSU, played for the Aggies from 1976-79 and was an All-Missouri Valley Conference selection and team captain in his senior year. After his playing career he served as NMSU’s assistant offensive line/strength coach during the 1980 and 1981 football seasons.

In 2006, John was inducted into the New Mexico State University College of Business Hall of Fame. He currently serves on the NMSU Foundation Board, and also served on the board of New Mexico State Sports Enterprises, Inc.
MaryLou Davis worked for 15 years in a private school in Phoenix as both a teacher and an administrator. In 1990, she began teaching in an inner city school as lead teacher for staff, and a mentor for student teachers. She was eventually awarded Master Teacher status by the district. In 2000, she moved to Phoenix College and worked there until her retirement.

She remains a strong advocate for children and children’s issues. Along with serving on the NMSU Foundation Board as Chair, she is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), for children in the foster system. She was one of the founders and board members of Foster Angels Serving Together. She served on the Camp Fire Boys and Girls Club Board and is currently Past Chair of the board for Gompers Habilitation. She has also served on the board of the Arizona Foundation for Women. She attended an 18 month training course on empowering nonprofits with the Arizona Endowment Building Initiative in 2013 and recently completed a training course on non-profit governance.

Mrs. Davis is native New Mexican and graduate of NMSU. She graduated with a B.S. degree in Elementary Education and taught in Las Cruces while her husband, Jack, completed his second degree in Electrical Engineering. In Phoenix, she completed an Associate of Arts degree in Child Development and later received a Child Development certificate and, eventually, her Master’s Degree in Education with an emphasis in Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. She holds endorsements in reading and English as Second Language. MaryLou was honored as the College of Education 2017 Distinguished Alumnus.

MaryLou and Jack have one son, Brian, and a granddaughter, Astarte who live in Portland, Oregon.
Christopher is an alumnus of New Mexico State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in finance in 2005, and a master's degree in business administration in 2012. As an undergraduate student at NMSU, he served as an Associated Students of NMSU senator for the College of Business and as a member of NMSU Board of Regents from 2011-2012.

He is active in the Las Cruces Rotary Club and a New Mexico Amigo. He currently serves as the President of the Aggie Athletic Club and supports NMSU students through his endowed scholarship. Christopher Dulany grew up in Los Alamos, N.M. and is a financial advisor for Edward Jones.
Mrs. Jackie Mitchell Edwards
Financial Consultant and Independent Branch Leader

Jackie Mitchell Edwards is a Charles Schwab Independent Branch Leader and Financial Consultant in Las Cruces, N.M., where she guides clients on a wide range of financial topics including investment advice, financial planning and retirement planning.

Prior to affiliating with Charles Schwab, Edwards served as the Chief Operating Officer of The Paso del Norte Group, a bi-national membership organization of business and civic leaders from the Paso del Norte region, to promote economic, social and cultural vitality of the region by cooperative effort, social interaction and the free exchange of ideas and views.

Before her time at The Paso del Norte Group, Ms. Edwards was a wealth management advisor at Merrill Lynch in Las Cruces and a financial advisor at Waddel & Reed in Las Cruces and El Paso, Texas, where she focused on comprehensive financial planning and consultative financial advice for individuals, families, businesses and small foundations. Ms. Edwards also practiced corporate and securities law in New York City for 16 years in various positions.

Ms. Edwards is a graduate of Princeton University and NYU Law School. She is a Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA) and a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor. Ms. Edwards grew up in El Paso and now lives in Las Cruces with her husband.
A native of Albuquerque, Del Esparza began his marketing career at IBM, and later advanced to a marketing position with DuPont and Conoco Oil Corporation in Houston, Texas. He then worked in senior level positions for many regional and national health care providers before starting Esparza Advertising. Founded in 2000, Esparza is a New Mexico based business that provides strategic marketing, advertising, and business solutions to a broad range of national public and private clients. Some of Esparza Advertising’s clients include Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Oppenheimer Funds, BMW, and Mini.

From its founding, Esparza Advertising has given countless hours of time and treasure to a variety of non-profits and charities throughout the State of New Mexico. In 2012 alone, Esparza Advertising donated more than $300,000 of in-kind donations of time to support organizations such as Assistance League, United Way, MADD, Heart Hospital of New Mexico, Habitat for Humanity, among others.

Mr. Esparza is the founder of Advocate philanthropic organization. He has also served as chair of the capital campaign of the United Way of Central NM, the American Heart Association Heart Walk. His awards include Top Performing CEO (NM Business Weekly), Duke City Dozen (Chamber of Commerce recognition for companies that give back), Chairman of the Board award of excellence (Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce) and Power Broker (NM Business Weekly).

Mr. Esparza’s current and past board positions include the NMSU Foundation Board, Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Central NM, New Mexico Foundation for Open Government, Heart Hospital of New Mexico, Wells Fargo Bank (Leadership Council Board), Insure New Mexico Task Force, and the Governor’s Business Executives for Education (GBEE). Del was honored as the College of Business 2017 Distinguished Alumnus.
Ed Foreman grew up on a sweet potato and peanut farm in Portales, graduated high school in Portales and spent his first two years in college at ENMU, studying pre-engineering, played on the Greyhound football team under the coaching and tutelage of Dr. Floyd Golden, Al Garten, Country Richardson, Dewey Langston, et al.

He then transferred to New Mexico State University where he graduated as a civil engineer and was employed by Phillips Petroleum Company in the Permian Basin oilfields of West Texas as a petroleum engineer. He developed a unique technique for drilling wells safer, faster and more efficiently than the methods being used at that time, became financially independent, was elected to the U. S. Congress, first from Texas, then from New Mexico, becoming the only person to be elected to the U. S. Congress from two different states in over 150 years! He has enjoyed a close working relationship with six U. S. Presidents and has served in both the U. S. Navy and the U. S. Air Force.

Ed holds an Honorary Doctorate of Letters Degree from New Mexico State University and is a member of the CPAE Speakers Hall of Fame. He is a motorcycle, sports car and hot air balloon enthusiast, an outdoor adventurer, and an international traveler.

He is a board member, officer, or major stockholder of a dozen successful corporations in real estate, construction, restaurants, transportation and petroleum development. Worldwide, there are now more than 30,000 graduates of his renowned, life-enhancing SUCCESSUL LIFE Course.

Ed and his wife, Barbara, met while both were students at NMSU, have been married 57 years, have two children, Preston Kirk, a business entrepreneur in Dallas, and Rebecca Lynn, an international language specialist and translator who maintains offices in Stockholm and Dallas; and a grandson, Justin, an automotive, computer and communications specialist in Dallas.
Nick Franklin is Chairman of the Board of Directors for New Mexico Mutual. His expertise in business, government, and administrative law comes from a career spanning more than 40 years of service in the public affairs arena. He has served as aide to a United States Senator, Chief Legislative Assistant and legal advisor to the Governor of New Mexico and the Secretary of Energy for New Mexico.

From 1990 to his retirement in 2004, Mr. Franklin provided corporate-level leadership in government relations, regulatory affairs, and communications as Senior Vice President of Public Affairs for Pacificare Health Systems. He came out of retirement in 2007 to serve as interim President of the New Mexico State University (NMSU) Foundation and Vice President of University Advancement at NMSU. He currently serves as Past Chairman of the NMSU Foundation Board.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from New Mexico State University and a Juris Doctorate from the George Washington University Law School.
A native New Mexican, Granger currently resides in Scottsdale, AZ, where he is owner of the marketing and promotional supply company Mprint, LLC. He is also part owner of his family’s business, providing consulting and products for smart meters in the southwest.

Granger is an alumnus of New Mexico State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education. As leader of NMSU’s Phoenix Alumni Chapter, Granger most recently served as secretary/treasurer of the alumni association’s International Board of Directors, and currently serves on the NMSU Foundation Board of Directors. He is also a loyal supporter of NMSU, establishing two endowed scholarships that award student leaders and undergraduates in the College of Education.
Christian Hendrickson is a civil trial lawyer who focuses on cases involving disputes arising out of commercial contracts, financial matters, construction, business/investment, and real estate issues. He is a member (partner) of Sherman & Howard, the oldest law firm in Colorado, which is also one of its largest (with offices in Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, Missouri, and Georgia). In addition to his trial practice, he serves on the firm’s leadership team as the firm’s Paralegal Coordinator. He is a member of the faculty of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

Christian currently serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and co-chairs the Membership Committee of LoDo District Inc., dedicated to Denver’s renowned historic district.

In 1997, Christian graduated with honors from New Mexico State University, with a major in Government and supplemental major in Law and Society. He received a juris doctor degree from the University of Colorado School of Law in 2000.

He regularly practices in state and federal courts, primarily in Colorado, and in arbitration proceedings across the country, and, before having kids of his own, coached the Monarch High School Mock Trial Team for several years. In the past, Christian served for several years on the boards of directors of Friends of Kids in Crisis and Colorado Youth at Risk, both of which provide mentoring and various other services to at-risk youth in the Denver area.

Christian served for a year as Law Clerk to the Honorable Morris B. Hoffman of the Denver District Court, a Colorado state trial court. He then went on to work as an associate at a mid-sized Denver law firm, where he remained until that firm merged with Sherman & Howard in 1997. He enjoys the outdoors, particularly running, bicycling, skiing, hockey, and golf.
Michael L. Johnson joined Conoco Inc. as a petroleum geologist in 1975, where he later held many positions in technical and management roles in various offices. In 1984, he was named a Sloan Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he completed an MS in finance and economics in 1985. In 1988 Conoco named him Vice President for Europe and Africa operations. In 1993, he was appointed Chairman and Managing Director of Conoco’s Norway affiliate, where he spent 5 years as the company completed its largest ever project, the $4.5 billion Heidrun Platform.

In 1997 he returned to Houston and was named the Chairman and CEO of Conoco Gas and Power, Conoco’s midstream business, and a Senior Vice President with Conoco Inc. He retired in 2002, and has been serving on various corporate and charitable boards since then.

Dr. Johnson was born and raised in Roswell, New Mexico, and is a third generation New Mexican. He attended New Mexico State University, first majoring in physics and then geology, and graduated with a B.S. in 1972. While at NMSU, he met and married his wife, Judy Gray. He then moved to Houston, Texas to attend graduate school at Rice University, graduating with an M.A. in geochemistry and completing course work for a Ph.D.

Dr. Johnson received an Honorary Doctorate from NMSU in 2006. He and his wife moved to Nambe, New Mexico in 2008. They have two children, their son Matt, a CPA for Deloitte & Touche in Dallas, and their daughter Jaki, a Registered Nurse in New York City.
Mr. Kozeliski was born and raised in Gallup, New Mexico. He along with his wife Joyce, own Adobe Self Storage in Gallup. He received bachelors and master's degrees from NMSU in government and a Juris Doctorate degree from Oklahoma City University. Mr. Kozeliski was in the private practice of law for 25 years and appeared before all levels of federal and state courts during his practice. In 2003 he gave up his private practice and became city attorney for the City of Gallup. He recently retired after 40 years of practicing law.

Mr. Kozeliski has served on various bank boards, community boards, the airport commission and was the airport manager for the Gallup airport for four years. He also co-founded and organized the youth soccer league in Gallup. Along with his brother Frank (NMSU 1967&1969), George owned Gallup Sand and Gravel Company that was started by their father and other entrepreneurs in 1946. He and his brother sold the company in 2007 and provided that some of the corporate assets at the time of the sale be transferred to the NMSU Foundation.

George has been married for 44 years to his kindergarten sweetheart, Joyce (NMSU 1973). They reside in Gallup but spend an extensive amount of time at their home in Broomfield, Colorado. They have three children; Andrew, a photographer in New Mexico; William, an attorney in Colorado; and Kate, a pre-school special education teacher in Virginia.
Mr. Kyle R. Louvar
Financial Advisor

In his role as Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch, Kyle Louvar is a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor as designated by the College of Financial Planning and certified through Merrill Lynch. He is also a Certified Special Needs Advisor and a PIA Program Portfolio Advisor. He works closely with families to help them identify problems or other issues with their financial situation, develop financial and retirement plans based on specific goals, and provide investment management. He also works with business owners to assist them in devising credit and lending strategies, and in dealing with cash management, investment management, wealth transfer, succession planning and retirement plan management.

Prior to joining Merrill Lynch, he was the CEO/Owner of a recruiting firm and technology company.

Mr. Louvar received a B.B.A. from NMSU, where he was also a four-year letterman in football. He has served as the President of the NMSU Alumni-Houston Chapter.

Mr. Louvar is married to Nicole Louvar (Van Dyke), who also graduated from NMSU. They are the proud parents of two daughters. He and his family reside in Bellaire, TX. They are involved in many local charities benefitting youth, women and cancer research. Kyle and Nicole support NMSU students through their endowed scholarship’s in Business and Athletics.
Nicole attended NMSU from 1995-1999, received a degree in Finance and was an endowment and Regents scholarship recipient. She has had a successful career as a natural gas trader for the past 15 years working for companies such as ConocoPhillips, BP, Merrill Lynch and Citigroup. Nicole is known for her compassion and ability to work with younger professionals, mentoring them as traders.

She is married to Kyle Louvar whom she met at NMSU. They have two daughters, ages 6 and 4. Nicole is actively involved with various charitable organizations. In her free time Nicole loves to cook and learn about wine. Nicole and Kyle support NMSU students through their endowed scholarship's in Business and Athletics.
Mr. Lujan is active in the New Mexico community and serves as Chairman of the Spanish Colonial Arts Society and Museum Board. He is a board member of the YDI Foundation, Albuquerque Community Foundation, Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, Santa Maria El Mirador Foundation, and the New Mexico State University Foundation. Formerly, he was a member of Albuquerque Economic Development, Inc. and the Albuquerque Public Schools Foundation. He is the recipient of the 2007 James F. Cole Memorial Award for Service, presented by the NMSU Alumni Association’s Executive Council in recognition of his civic, humanitarian and professional service and the support he has shown NMSU.

Mr. Lujan earned his B.A. in Management and Marketing from NMSU in 1976 and his Certified Insurance Counselor (C.I.C.) designation in 1988. He played on NMSU’s golf team in 1975 and 1976. He is married with two sons, and enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting, traveling, skiing, and working.
Robert “Bobby” Lutz graduated from NMSU with a BBA (honors) in 1973 and MBA in 1975. He was a member of the NMSU golf team from 1969-1973. He is a Crimson Lifetime member of the Alumni Association, and an on-going Athletics and Business donor.

Mr. Lutz is married to Rebecca and they have two children, Proper and Fletcher.
Dion Messer is the Senior Intellectual Property Corporate Counsel at Limelight Networks, a digital presence management company based in Tempe, AZ, but with offices worldwide. Ms. Messer focuses on intellectual property litigation and is a veteran of ITC patent infringement litigation; she is a recognized expert in Digital Signal Processing (DSP). She also practiced with the firms Weil Gotshal and Manges, and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, and began her legal career as a clerk for the Honorable William C. Bryson, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, in 2004 - 2005.

Before practicing law, Ms. Messer was a computer telephony specialist and regional sales manager for the Ariel Corporation in New Jersey, a DSP engineer with Motorola Semiconductor, where she earned nine patents, a communications system engineer at Lockheed, and a satellite systems engineer with Space Communications Company, beginning 1983.

Ms. Messer has received numerous awards, including the George Hutchinson Award from the Federal Circuit Bar Association for outstanding leadership, and the Veteran’s Pro Bono Leadership Award (one of only four ever awarded) from the Federal Circuit Bar Association’s Veterans Pro Bono Committee for her service in Vietnam veteran Leroy Comer’s disability rights case, which set new precedents in rights for veterans applying for disability compensation.

Ms. Messer earned her BSEE (honors) from NMSU in 1984, her MSEE from the University of Texas-Austin in 1988 and her JD from UT-Austin in 2004. She is a lifetime member of the NMSU Alumni Association, and a donor to the College of Engineering and the President’s Associates.

She is married to Charles Richter, founder and principal owner of Objective Engineering.
Susan Raney Plantz graduated from NMSU in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics Communications. She moved to Hereford, Texas upon graduation to begin her career as an Extension Home Economist for Deaf Smith County. She then married and moved to Chicago, Illinois and took a Test Kitchen/Manager of Customer Service position with EKCO Housewares. She later was hired by The Quaker Oats Company as a Consumer Response Specialist. While at Quaker she was promoted to a Sr. Specialist and then Manager where she assisted with the handling of over 100,000 contacts per year, wrote reports, helped create consumer materials and liaison with Quality Assurance, Marketing and Promotions departments.

She and husband William Plantz (NMSU grad 1985) then started a family and she began her volunteer life. Through her children’s schools she served as a committee head or member for various classroom, sports or school-wide events and projects for 15 years. In her Church she taught religious education and coordinated a bible study for 60 women over the course of several years.

She currently volunteers for a women’s substance abuse rehabilitation non-profit, a homeless mission and serves as an advisory board member to a financial advisor. She started a furniture refinishing business in 2012 called The Domestic Diva.

She and husband Bill live in Nashville, Tennessee and have two daughters, Alyssa and Sarah. Alyssa is an Athletic Trainer for The University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio and Sarah is employed by Lord and Taylor department store in New York City as a Merchandising Assistant.
After retiring in 2008 from a 25 year teaching career with the Las Cruces Public School District, Brenda Porter became an Associate Broker with Steinborn and Associates Real Estate in Las Cruces. She continues to work actively with that company, as well as serving as a manager/partner for Bobren, LLC which oversees commercial and residential rentals and farms.

Ms. Porter serves as treasurer on the NMSU Foundation Board, and has served on many other committees/boards at NMSU as well, including the NMSU Alumni Association, President’s Associates, Aggie Athletic Club, Sports Enterprises and Football Success Fund. She and her father, Bob, created the Bob and Brenda Porter Point Guard Endowment for NMSU Basketball. In 2011, she also created an endowment in the College of Education to support Student Teachers. She has served in other volunteer roles throughout the Las Cruces community including Junior League of Las Cruces, Las Cruces Teacher’s Center, La Casa shelter for battered women and the Tough Enough to Wear Pink campaign.

Ms. Porter graduated from NMSU in 1983 with a B.A. in Elementary Education, certification in Early Childhood Education and a minor in Counseling and Educational Psychology. She also received her master’s degree from NMSU in 1986. She is married to John Hudson, who works in Canutillo, Texas as athletic coordinator and athletic trainer at Alderete Middle School. She has two stepchildren, Whitney and Ian.
Mr. Eric Powell  
Retired Attorney

Eric Powell is a retired Tax Attorney and CPA, having worked for ExxonMobil Corporation for over 32 years. His ExxonMobil career included work in the Controllers organization and in the Tax Department, where he worked on international business transactions (Russia, Hungary, Canada) and international and U.S. corporate taxes (state and local taxes, and U.S. federal income tax controversies).

Eric is a native New Mexican, growing up in Tularosa. Eric graduated from NMSU with a Bachelor of Accountancy degree in 1981 and obtained a Juris Doctorate from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas in 1995. Eric’s wife, Cindy Reece, is a Petroleum Engineer who is a retired ExxonMobil executive. Eric and Cindy enjoy traveling and currently split their time between Cave Creek, Arizona and Dillon, Colorado.

Eric is very active in fundraising for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and has participated in over 20 Bike MS events (bike rides of over 150 miles) raising over $250,000 in a 20 year period. He has served as the Chair of the Safety Committee for the Houston to Austin Bike MS event and a member of the event’s Steering Committee. Eric has been on NMSU’s Business College Advisory Committee since 2010. Eric and Cindy helped fund the Lionel Haight Accounting Professorship Endowment. In addition, Eric and Cindy have established the Eric Powel and Cindy Reece Endowed Scholarship to fund scholarships for students seeking a degree in Accounting.
Raul is a tax partner with the firm Strickler & Prieto, LLP. Raul has over 31 years of professional income tax experience in both U.S. domestic and International Tax. His professional experience includes four years at Ernst & Young in Roswell, NM where he served clients in the oil and gas industry. Subsequently, he joined Price Waterhouse in San Francisco, CA where he served on a variety of clients in the wine industry, technology, and in the trust and estate tax area. He was then assigned to the Price Waterhouse Mexico City office where he served Multinational clients doing business in Mexico, such as IBM, ATT, Kellogg’s, etc. While in Mexico City, he also served U.S. clients with expatriate assignees in Mexico. In 1993, Raul joined KPMG, LLP in El Paso, Texas where he served a variety of clients including Mexican companies doing business in the U.S. and U.S., Japanese and Taiwanese companies doing business in Mexico through Maquiladora companies. He also helped clients administer their expatriate programs in Mexico and their U.S. employees working in Mexico. Raul also worked on several multinational corporate restructuring projects and in creating joint ventures between Mexican and U.S. partners.

Currently, Raul is a partner with the firm Strickler & Prieto, LLP in El Paso Texas. The firm works with cross-border transactions and serves clients with international operations.

Raul is a graduate of New Mexico State University where he earned two Bachelors degrees in Accounting and Economics. He also earned a Masters of Accountancy degree in 1985.

Throughout his career Raul has been active in the different communities he has lived in and served on several charitable boards in the community. He is currently a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Texas Board of Public Accountancy. He also serves on the El Paso Symphony Orchestra board, and the NMSU Foundation Board. He is currently certified as a CPA in the State of Texas.

Raul is married to Cindy and has a 22-year old daughter attending the University of Denver pursuing a Master’s degree in Economics and a 21-year old son attending New Mexico State University pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Music Education.
Randy Pugh’s 40 year career in the insurance brokerage business provided him an opportunity to travel the world while dealing with large multinational corporations. His clients included Chevron, ARCO, H&R Block, Microsoft, Conoco Phillips, and Occidental Petroleum. His career began in Washington, DC, and then took him to Hartford, Kansas City, Albuquerque, San Diego, London, Los Angeles, and, finally, Alaska and Seattle, where he served as CEO and President of Alaska USA Insurance. In 2005 he started an insurance brokerage agency that grew to become one of the largest independent agencies in the US. Although he is retired, Mr. Pugh still works as a consultant to insurance agencies.

Mr. Pugh graduated from NMSU in 1969, at which point he entered the US Navy as a pilot.

After his retirement, Mr. Pugh and his wife returned to New Mexico. They divide their time between Seattle and Santa Fe, and enjoy hunting, fishing and culinary visits to Europe.
Joseph Salopek graduated from the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences with a bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business in 2004. He is actively involved with the family’s pecan farming business, Salopek 6U Farms, Inc. A third generation pecan farmer, Joseph currently manages 6U along side his father, Ben, his Uncle James, as well as his 3 cousins, Dustin, Rett, and Chuy Salopek.

Aside from farming, Joseph also assists with the family cattle ranch located north of Deming. 6U has an active family foundation, The Salopek Foundation, that continues to support scholarships and several NMSU activities including the College of ACES and NMSU Athletics. 6U is active within pecan research projects at NMSU and awards several scholarships each year to students within Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science.

Joseph’s wife, Bridget, also an NMUS Alum, currently runs her own personal fitness training business, as well as teaches group fitness classes through the City of Las Cruces.

Joseph and Bridget have a son and enjoy hunting, traveling, and attending NMSU sporting events and Green Bay Packer football games.
Frank Seidel, President and Founder of Seidel Technologies, has over 35 years of experience working in the oil & gas industry. His introduction to working in the field began working summers as a roustabout engineer trainee for Amoco Production Co. in West Texas. After receiving his Bachelor's of Science in Chemical Engineering from New Mexico State University in January 1982, Frank was offered a full-time engineering position with Amoco in Hobbs, NM.

Frank married his wife Jennifer, a NMSU alumna, in June 1982. They started their family in in Hobbs, where they lived for five years. They have 3 daughters, Hailey (founder of Bowdog Canine Specialists, centered in Calgary, AB), and Caroline (BS: Kinesiology, NMSU 2010; Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine, University of Western States 2013, practices in Golden and Lakewood, CO) and Rosalind (BA: English Literature and Medieval Studies, Loyola University New Orleans 2016; MLIS: Archives and Digital Curation, University of Maryland 2018).

In 1987, Frank was transferred to Houston, TX where he worked in Amoco’s Western Region office. While in Houston, he worked as part of an engineering team that pioneered some of the first horizontal drilling in the Austin Chalk Field. In 1991, Frank was transferred to Denver, CO where he managed drilling operations in Oklahoma and New Mexico.

In 1994, Frank joined an independent operator, Burlington Resources, and was asked to work in their Farmington, NM office as the Drilling Engineering Team Leader, mentoring young engineers. As the team leader, Frank was nominated for New Mexico’s Business Development “1999 Entrepreneur of the Year” for his work in Oil & Gas Air Drilling Optimization. Still working for Burlington in 1999 when they purchased Poco Petroleum based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Frank was then named the Canadian Drilling Manager, becoming one of the company’s first expatriate employees in Canada. In 2005, when Burlington was purchased by Conoco Phillips, Frank joined the Canadian start-up Canetic Resources. In 2007, Canetic was sold to Penn West Resources. At this point, having spent nearly eight years in Canada, Frank and Jennifer decided to return to the U.S. Frank became Drilling Manager for El Paso E&P in Denver in December 2007. By 2008, Frank was promoted to Operations Manager for El Paso’s entire Western Region, achieving record production.

In 2009, El Paso announced closure of their Denver office and Frank was inspired to create Seidel Technologies, LLC, an oil & gas engineering consultation firm centered in Denver, CO. Frank and the team he built continued to develop and apply new drilling techniques to in order to improve efficiency. Seidel Technologies grew rapidly, achieving $15 million in revenue by 2015, with approximately sixty contract employees. To date, Seidel Tech. has helped its clients achieve over $30 billion in realized value.

Frank has continued to support NMSU by serving NMSU’s Foundation Board and the NMSU Department of Chemical Engineering Advisory Board. Frank and Jennifer have provided funding for “Entrepreneur Encounters” at Arrowhead Center, the Frank Seidel Scholarship for Chemical Engineering Students and the Seidel Brew Lab in the Chemical Engineering Department. Frank looks forward to the work he can do with and for the university into the future.
Smoky Torgerson has experience in higher education through various positions at NMSU, Texas Tech University, Idaho State University, and the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Torgerson serves as a member of the NMSU Foundation Board Executive Committee, Governance Committee, and Campaign Steering Committee where she oversees board membership and fundraising for NMSU. She has established the Glass Family Library for Young Children in the Myrna’s Children’s Village and The Glass Family Endowed Scholarship in Education, and serves as Co-Chair for the Lujan Dinner benefiting NMSU athletic scholarships. She has served on boards raising funds for the Wounded Warrior Project, Susan B. Komen Race Committee and Family Promise. She continues to support various community organizations.

Dr. Torgerson received degrees from New Mexico State University, Idaho State University and completed her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.

She and her husband, Alan, live in Albuquerque and enjoy traveling and spending time with their daughters, Jamie, Chief Copy Editor, McBeards, and Jessie, Nurse Practitioner. Both live in Los Angeles with their spouses and grandchildren.