

Educators Rising New Mexico Taskforce

When people ask me where my roots are, I look down at my feet, and I see the roots of my soul grasping the earth. They are here... in the Southwest... I still live in New Mexico.

— NEW MEXICAN RODOLFO ANAYA-WORLD RENOWNED AUTHOR



As part of the 18-month planning grant, PDK Educators Rising will use a culturally responsive and sustaining framework to create a diverse taskforce including teacher leaders, representatives from NM State Department of Education, NM institutions of higher education, Indigenous communities, bilingual educators, and community experts to generate a needs assessment and develop a plan to support a “Grow Your Own” state strategy that reflects the unique linguistic and cultural context of New Mexico’s communities.



 **EDUCATORS
RISING**



Michael Rodríguez, a native of Pecos, New Mexico, Michael Rodríguez is currently the Executive Director of Dual Language Education of NM (DLeNM). For six years, he served as the organization's director of operations, heading up and expanding its Program Design & Leadership Development offerings

while supporting schools, districts, and state agencies across the country to create quality, sustainable dual language programs. During his fifteen years as a school administrator, he helped to establish and operate three different dual language programs in the Santa Fe and Albuquerque areas. In his current role, Michael leads an experienced team of dual language educator-trainers who provide professional development in support of quality instruction for language learners and effective dual language program design. DLeNM is also host to the country's largest dual language conference annually, right here in New Mexico. Michael is married to his wife Jackie, who is a dual language administrator. Together they have two grown children, Miquela and Andrew who have both attended the University of New Mexico.



Alan Mather is the President of the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching, a sister organization of Golden Apple New Mexico. Alan co-leads the foundation in partnership with Alicia Winckler, the CEO.

Prior to coming to Golden Apple and moving to New Mexico, Alan served in the Chicago Public Schools for more than 32 years, from classroom teacher to principal to a key member of the CEO and Chief Education Officer's cabinet--leading College and Career Success for the district.

Alan worked 12 years as a high school English teacher and coach before moving into administration where he served over six years as an assistant principal, and then ten years as the founding principal of Lindblom Math & Science Academy, where he restarted a closed school and lead it to be the top-performing majority African-American school in Illinois.

Alan then served as the Chief Officer for the Office of College and Career Success, leading support and postsecondary work for the district's 360,000 students.

Alan represented the Chicago Public Schools at Harvard University's PELP (Public Education Leadership Program), was an inaugural member of the College Board's Leadership Institute for Principals, has been part of Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management's "Leading Successful Schools" program, and was selected as one of two Chicago principals to participate in Columbia University's Cahn Fellows Distinguished Principals Program for the 2012-2013 school year at Teachers College in New York. In 2014, he was the first recipient of the Golden Apple Foundation's Stanley C Golder Award for Principals or Heads of School.



Minea Armijo Romero (ella, she, hers, they) is a Ph.D. Candidate in Language Literacy and Sociocultural Studies at the University of New Mexico and faculty at Central New Mexico Community College in the Department of Education. Her research looks at transnationalism, through the lens of border theory, intercultural educational

models, and bilingual education in indigenous Mexican communities. She is currently conducting research in Santa Fe de la Laguna in the state of Michoacán, México looking at Intercultural high school models. Armijo's research looks at what contributes to the process of transnational education in indigenous communities and equitable assessment practices. She has been an educator in K-12 in various in New Mexico in bilingual settings and is currently faculty at Central New Mexico Community College. Armijo received a B.A. in Art and the University of Texas at El Paso, a MA in Art History from New Mexico State University, M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction in Bilingual Education from the University of Texas at El Paso.



Elena Valdez, PhD – I received a Ph.D. in English and a graduate certificate in the study of women, gender, and sexuality from Rice University. My areas of teaching and research include American studies, Mexican American literature and culture, folklore studies, and public humanities. My work has been published

in *Chiricú Journal: Latina/o Literatures, Arts, and Cultures* and *Religion: Super Religion*, an edited volume of the Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbook series on religion. After completing my doctorate I returned to my home state with the intention of using my training to ensure students in New Mexico have access to culturally sustaining education, a choice that reflects my deep love of the people and places that shaped me. I was hired to be the Hispanic Education Specialist within the Language and Culture Division of the New Mexico Public Education Department in 2021 and now have the title of Bilingual Seal Specialist. Before joining the LCD, I worked as a librarian and was contracted by the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations to write about acequia and land grant education in New Mexico. I am a proud graduate of the New Mexico public school system.



Katy MacCornack is the Preparation, Pipeline, and Recruitment Coordinator in the Division of Educator Quality at the New Mexico Public Education Department. She has served in education for 10 years starting as a middle school science teacher, then supporting Albuquerque Public Schools and now

with the State of New Mexico. As the PED recruitment coordinator, Katy brings together multiple education stakeholders to thought partner ways to recruit, prepare, and retain highly qualified educators to serve the diverse student populations of New Mexico.



Dr. Susana Ibarra Johnson is an assistant professor in bilingual education and TESOL in the School of Teacher Preparation, Administration, and Leadership. Ibarra Johnson is one of the coauthors of *The Translanguaging Classroom: Leveraging Student Bilingualism for Learning* along with

Ofelia García and Kate Seltzer. Her commitment to improving the education of bilingual students is grounded in her experience as a bilingual learner and teacher. She has been a professional development specialist, associate researcher for WIDA, director of bilingual multicultural education programs at Bernalillo Public Schools, and most recently a district biliteracy specialist for Albuquerque Public Schools. Her research focuses on translanguaging pedagogy in bilingual education and English language development contexts.



Joseph Moreno, Ph.D. is from Bernalillo, NM and a 2001 graduate of Bernalillo High School. He received his Bachelor's degree from Colorado College in 2005 in Liberal Arts & Sciences, Anthropology, Southwest Studies, and Spanish. He received his Master's degree from UNM in 2008 in Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural

Studies. He is currently a PhD candidate in Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies, focusing on the creation of a critical curriculum unit that examines how race, class, power, and identity impact Nuevomexicano language use, and an understanding of history and culture. The unit emphasizes the Bernalillo Matachines Dance, and Las Fiestas de San Lorenzo.

Joseph's parents are Benny and Cordy Moreno. He currently lives in Bernalillo, serving in various capacities for the Town of Bernalillo, including the Planning & Zoning Commission, and the newly created community history museum. Joseph is also a long-time participant of Los Matachines dance, having danced for 20 years.



Sara Ames Brown – Passionate about the potential to build collaborative educational communities that focus on empathy across cultures and lifestyles, while cherishing individual differences, Sara Ames Brown is an educator with twenty-one years of multi-grade, multi-disciplinary experience in helping

students open doors for their futures and mentoring new teachers. A longtime resident of Ruidoso Downs, she knows that students are empowered by professional educators who are members of their community. Encouraging students to consider a local career in education, she developed Teacher Academy for tenth through twelfth graders in 2020 and continues to teach the course. In 2015, she created a course to help seniors get comfortable with accessing further education, employment, life skills and community mentors. She

co-teaches Post High School Success with her husband at Ruidoso High School, where she strives to create educational experiences that support the needs of her students.



My name is **Sandra Lunt Hill**. I have been teaching for twenty-two years. I taught elementary school for one year, and then graduated to high school. I have been a high school English teacher most of my career, and for the past seven years have been an Educator Rising teacher leader. For the past three years, I taught

Teacher Academy classes to future teachers at Deming High School and Newcomb High School, which included a dual-credit course, Introduction to Teaching. I am passionate about encouraging high school students to learn teaching skills and consider a profession in education. In my classrooms, students help teach because they learn more when they are explaining to others. In my current vocation at Newcomb High School on the Navajo Reservation, my students have won awards in state competitions, and a few have recently enrolled in college and university education programs. I live with my husband and two dogs in Newcomb, New Mexico. In my free time I enjoy traveling across the country to visit my large extended family. I also enjoy writing and painting.



Dr. Alexandra Neves is an Associate Professor of TESOL/Bilingual Education at the School of Education at Western New Mexico University, where she has been a faculty member since 2008. Originally from Brazil, she has taught all grade levels in her native country including adult literacy, and trained teachers in

Brazil, Spain, Mexico and the United States. Dr. Neves completed her undergraduate and master's studies at UNISUL in Brazil and her Ph.D. at New Mexico State University. Her main research interests are in the fields of language acquisition, teacher education and concepts of critical pedagogy and social justice, and teachers' intercultural competence and their responsibility to examine unfair systems of power within schools and society. She has presented on these issues in the United States, Mexico, Ecuador, Spain, the Dominican Republic, Greece and Brazil. Dr. Neves's current research agenda revolves around best practices in the area of multiculturalism and cross-cultural understanding in teacher preparation. Dr. Neves has collaborated with researchers and other scholars in the state of New Mexico on ELL teacher preparation grants providing mentorship for in-service and pre-service teachers in TESOL and bilingual programs. She is an active supporter of the implementation of bilingual, multicultural education programs at the state level.



Dr. Karen C. Sanchez-Griego Ed.D is working in Cuba New Mexico as the Superintendent of Cuba Independent Schools, she is leading district wide redesign and support the landmark case of Yazzie/Martinez in which Cuba ISD is a plaintiff district, and working on ensuring that the students in CISD receive an

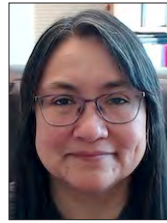
equitable academic education using a systems approach that supports holistic efforts to ensure a Prek-thru 12th grade educational system that prepares students for college and career from the day they enter CISD schools, she was hired as an Adjunct Professor in August 2016; to teach a multitude of courses preparing principals and other leaders in education. As well she is working on two books; one "From the boardroom to the classroom" and "Latina Leadership; Born to Lead" set for publication in spring of 2022, she also worked as a CEO/Support of a local Charter School; she worked on the Navajo Nation as Superintendent of schools Pre-12th plus an alternative school, she worked with The New Mexico Public Education Department as Assistant Director of Educator Quality, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction (Arlington Public Schools), she was the first principal of "The New Southwest High School now named ATRISCO HERITAGE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL" a multi million dollar school that was built from the ground up in a predominate poor, minority and disenfranchised community. She is an educational reformist who has worked state wide and across the country on educational issues; including constituent work on educational reform issues in Washington D.C.



Stephanie Mack Ed.D. is owner and operator of A+ Class A.C.T. Consulting in Corrales, New Mexico. She also serves as the Assistant Director of Education at the Pueblo of Jemez, where she has been charged with working with Tribal Leadership to ensure academic and early learning excellence on the Pueblo, rooted

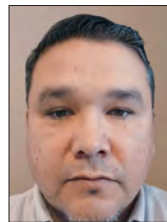
in culture and language. Certified in New Mexico and Texas in K-12 Education, Leadership, Special and Physical Education, she supports students, parents, campus leaders, and school boards in achieving academic excellence, strong leadership, building capacity and strengthening programs to best serve our communities. A true social justice warrior, advocate, and leader, Dr. Mack strives to be of service in all aspects of daily living. She obtained her undergraduate degree at the University of Houston, and Master of Public Administration at Texas Southern University. Most recently, she earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Mary- Hardin Baylor in Belton, Texas. This is where her passion for social justice and advocacy developed into her lifelong calling.

Dr. Mack enjoys gardening, community service, reading, and spending time admiring the beautiful sights of New Mexico.



Cecilia M. Hernandez, Ph.D. is a College Associate Professor of Science Education and the Clinical Director of Alternative Licensure at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She holds a Bachelor and a Master of Science in Biology from Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, TX, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum

and Instruction from Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS. She has taught courses related to science K-16 for over 20 years, and has worked with school districts, community colleges, and university faculty in continuously improving teacher education programs. Her interests include mentoring diverse learners and culturally responsive teaching in science education. She is currently entering her 11th year teaching Elementary and Secondary science methods in the Teacher Education Program at NMSU.



Zane Rosette is a Chippewa-Cree tribal member from Rocky Boy, Montana. He and his wife, Sophia, have four children, Rebecca, Aidan, Claire, and Beau. Zane earned his Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Montana. He started his teaching

career in 2005 as a 3rd grade teacher in Phoenix, Arizona. He then became a 2nd grade teacher at his home town school, Box Elder Public Schools. He earned his Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2009 from the University of Montana. Eventually, he moved his family to Albuquerque, New Mexico to take a leadership position at the Native American Community Academy (NACA). Zane has worked at the Native American Community Academy (NACA) since 2011. In 2014, he earned his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of New Mexico. He initially served as a Dean of Students at NACA and eventually moved to Elementary Principal in 2015. Zane's leadership was instrumental in establishing NACA's elementary school, because the school was initially serving 6th-12th grade students. Zane is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of New Mexico. He currently serves as the Executive Director of NACA.



Berlinda Begay is a citizen of the Navajo Nation. She lives in a small rural community called Red Mesa, AZ but she was raised in another small rural community called Rock Point, AZ. Her husband and her moved back to her grandparent's homelands as that is where her matrilineal clan roots stem from.

She has been in Indian Education for over 25 years but her passion is working with Navajo language and culture.

Navajo is her first language. A lot of the work she does today is in Indigenous language revitalization, preservation, and advocacy for cultural identity in many facets such as culturally responsive teaching.

Her undergraduate and graduate degrees were specific to Navajo bilingual bicultural education, and administration specific to working for Navajo children, and her Navajo people.

Her humble upbringing is what has inspired her to do what she loves to do today working with Navajo language and culture. She does it because she thinks of the status of the language and culture when she is old and she wants to ensure that the language and cultural teachings will still be here for her own children, the many Navajo children, and for the unborn. She believes that it her purpose in life to do the work that she does.



Carlos Lópezleiva is an Associate Professor in Bilingual and Mathematics Education in the Department of Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies at the University of New Mexico, whose work focuses on teaching and learning (in- and out-side of school) ecologies—in relation to equitable social

interactions through language uses and ideologies, task designs, relationship development, and what counts as mathematics—that mediate members' participation in and meaning making of mathematical practices.



Crystal Chavez is the State Program Coordinator for Educators Rising New Mexico and has been with the state office since Dr. Karen Trujillo first began the program in 2015. Crystal is also the Program Specialist, Sr. for Mathematically Connected Communities (MC2) and has been serving as the Interim State Director

for Educators Rising New Mexico since February 2022. Crystal oversees state implantation of Educators Rising NM which is recognized as a Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO), serving over 35 chapters with over 500 middle, high school and collegiate members for the 2022-23 academic year. Crystal and former director Dr. Stacey Duncan were instrumental in bringing bilingual chapters and competitions throughout the state. New Mexico was the first state to recognize bilingual chapters and competition within the program. Crystal brings 10 years of experience working in various higher education positions working with both federal and state grants, coordinating outreach programs and professional learning workshops for students and teachers throughout New Mexico.



Dr. Armando Garza Ayala is an Assistant Professor of Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies at the University of New Mexico. He holds a Ph.D. in Culture, Literacy, and Language from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Using sociocultural and critical frameworks, Dr. Garza Ayala's research and teaching

interests focus on the use of linguistic and cultural tools in K-12 mathematics/science education with bilingual and emergent bilingual Latina/o/x marginalized students, and language and literacy justice of minoritized student populations and local communities.



Lara Dandreo is the National Implementation General Manager at PDK International / Educators Rising. Prior to taking on this role, she had taught at the elementary school level both as a classroom teacher and an English as a Second Language specialist. Lara has supported foundational

work in establishing and growing Educators Rising presence in several states, including her home state of Massachusetts. She currently serves as a thought partner in the research and planning work related to Grow Your Own programming for Bilingual, Multilingual, and Native American Students in New Mexico. Additionally, she provides Educators Rising training across the country for states and districts that are starting out in their implementation of the program. Through this work, she has identified key topics and trainings that teacher leaders most often request and is creating synchronous and asynchronous professional learning opportunities to provide ongoing support for teachers to access throughout the school year.



Yanelly Perez is the Programs Manager at PDK International and Educators Rising national office. Her primary work revolves around the Educators Rising curriculum which offers an introduction to the teaching profession both in the mindsets and high-leverage practices necessary to enter the classroom. Through this role,

she was tapped to become a team member in the work with New Mexico to support of bilingual, multilingual, and Native students. The work in New Mexico will not only highlight the incredible teaching happening in the state, but it will also provide insight and entry points for students across the country to learn more about bilingual and multilingual education within the EdRising curriculum and at their state level. Having grown up as a bilingual learner, she understands the value and necessity of infusing classrooms with the languages and cultures of the students. In her previous role as an elementary teacher, this necessity became a clear responsibility and it was an experience that prompted her own learning around the work of other educators, nurturing future educators, and a focus on ensuring the teaching profession grows and reflects the communities at all levels.



Mishelle, lead of the taskforce with PDK, is a veteran bilingual teacher from the state of New Mexico. In her 20 years in the classroom she has taught Spanish as a Modern Language, Spanish for Heritage Speakers and for the last seven years was instrumental in developing and aligning Spanish and English language arts for

emergent bilingual students and multilingual students in a secondary environment. She was the Biliteracy coach at Atrisco Heritage Academy, the newest high school in the State. Mishelle and her colleagues developed a portfolio process for the students to attain the Biliteracy Seal offered by Albuquerque Public Schools. Mishelle also worked along with many other New Mexicans to create a book of guidance for the State of New Mexico's Bilingual Seal. She has a BA in Spanish and Sociology, a MA in Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural studies with an emphasis in Bilingual Education, and is in her 7th year of her doctoral program, all completed at the University of New Mexico. Mishelle is a doctoral candidate, her research looks into Spanish Language Arts at the secondary level for teacher preparation and curriculum development, in particular how translanguaging manifests in the Spanish Language Arts space. Mishelle has also been on the board for Dual Language of New Mexico for 12 years. She conducts professional development around the country on language development, translanguaging, bilingual programming, and biliteracy to name a few. Currently, Mishelle is the New Mexico Field Director for PDK Educators Rising where she will be conducting research on Grow Your Own Programs for Bilingual/Multilingual and Native American students in her state. Mishelle is married to her best friend Aldo Jurado and together they have two bilingual children. In the Jurado home, bilingualism is celebrated and exalted to the point that everyone could someday become stand-up comedians dedicated to the fusion of Spanish and English. For Mishelle and her family, bilingualism is not just something out of a book or a theory—it's their way of life. Her humble upbringing is what has inspired her to do what she loves to do today working with Navajo language and culture. She does it because she thinks of the status of the language