

## Chamber Presents Annual Awards to Volunteers and Legislators at June Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce announced 33 award winners last week at its June Board of Directors meeting. Each year the Board of Directors recognizes the efforts of individuals and organizations that go above and beyond to make our community a better place to live and work.

“These awards are some of my favorite to present,” said Liz Shipley, Chairman of the Board. “We’re able to recognize the good work of so many people and organizations—all of whom dedicate themselves to efforts which build, strengthen and enhance our city and state in different ways. We are a better community because of their endeavors.”

The following is a list of award winners:

### Business Advocate in Politics Award:

This award is given annually to an elected official who has supported the business community in their public policy initiatives. This year’s recipient is **Speaker Don Tripp**, for his tireless work on behalf of business in New Mexico to create an environment where private business can grow and prosper.

### Honorary Lifetime Membership Award:

This award is given to an individual or entity that has demonstrated a strong commitment over an extended period of time to the Chamber and its mission. The **Sandia Peak Tram** recently celebrated its golden anniversary and for 50 years has been providing a destination where locals and tourists, alike, love to visit. Eleven-million visitors have enjoyed a ride on the Sandia Peak Tram during its 50 years.

### Chairman’s Award for Excellence:

This award is given annually to a volunteer or organization who has demonstrated continued support of the Chamber in a variety of leadership positions with extraordinary competence and vigor.

**Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Daniels** worked tirelessly in the months leading up to, and during the 2016 Legislative Session on a bill which would allow bail to be denied to certain dangerous criminals. SJR1 was passed during the session and the constitutional amendment will be on the November general election ballot. Chief Justice Daniels demonstrated incredible leadership during the process.

### Chairman’s Award for Community Excellence:

The Chairman’s Award for Community Excellence is presented to an individual or organization for contributions to making Albuquerque a better place to live and work.

**bewellnm, New Mexico's Health Insurance Exchange, Amy Dowd, CEO, and the NMHIX board** are recognized for successful work in increasing the number of businesses and individuals in the state who have health insurance.

Excellence in Education Award:

This award is given annually to an individual or individuals who have demonstrated a strong commitment to education reform and the plight of every child.

**Representative Jim Smith** is recognized for his diligent work over several legislative sessions to get a teacher evaluation bill passed. A bill is yet to pass, but Representative Smith's efforts have been immense.

Media Business Leadership Award:

This award is presented to a member of the media who is fair and balanced with business. We are pleased to present **Kevin Avila, Albuquerque Journal** with the award, recognizing his comprehensive coverage of technology and the emerging innovation sector in Albuquerque and his solid, high-quality and balanced coverage of business issues that range from energy to construction, development and everything in between.

Small Business Member of the Year Award:

This award is given annually to a small business that has overcome obstacles and achieved greatness. The path to entrepreneurial success is long and difficult and for those who prevail; a significant accomplishment. This award is given this year to **Pizza 9**. Pizza 9 has grown from one store in 2008 to 20 today and continues its growth with the addition of jobs at their corporate office. Pizza 9 was recently named one of the top 200 franchises by Franchise Business Review.

Small Business Advocate of the Year Award:

This award is given annually to an individual or organization that has been an effective advocate for small business in New Mexico. This award is being given to **The Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce** for its work with the SBA to train and certify businesses in the 8(a) Business Development Program which helps small disadvantaged businesses compete in the American economy and access the federal procurement market and for HUBZone Empowerment Contracting Program, a program is designed to stimulate economic development and create jobs in urban and rural communities by providing Federal-contracting preferences to small businesses that obtain HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zone) certification.

Board Member Rookie of the Year:

This award is given to a first year Chamber board member for their involvement, enthusiasm and support of the Chamber's mission. **Peter Lorenz, UniRac** earned this award for his enthusiastic and helpful contributions to the Chamber's Plan of Action for today and in the future.

### **2016 Legislative Awards**

"E" for Effort Awards are given to legislators who work diligently, without wavering, on bills important to the business community, but that ultimately did not become law. The recognition acknowledges their hard work and encourages them to continue the fight.

#### **Our E for Effort Awards recipients are:**

- **Senator Mark Moores**, Right to Work (SB 269)
- **Representative Monica Youngblood**, Social Promotion (HB 67)
- **Representative Jimmie Hall**, Truancy (HB 240)
- **Representative James Townsend**, Truancy (HB 240)
- **Senator Ron Griggs**, Adjunct Secondary Instructors Act (SB 114)
- **Representative Conrad James**, Adjunct Secondary Instructors Act (SB 114)
- **Senator Carlos Cisneros**, Capital Outlay Reform Act (HB 307)
- **Representative Zachary Cook**, Capital Outlay Reform Act (HB 307)
- **Representative Larry Larrañga**, Law Enforcement Officers Returning to Work (HB 171)
- **Senator Stuart Ingle**, Law Enforcement Officers Returning to Work (HB 171)
- **Representative Paul Pacheco**, Three Strikes (HB 56)
- **Representative Nate Gentry**, Allow Local Government Curfew Ordinances (HB 29)
- **Representative Jim Dines**, Independent Ethics Commission (HJR 5)

Start to Finish Awards recognize legislators for working diligently, without wavering, on bills important to the business community, of which ultimately do become law. The recognition acknowledges their hard work and encourages them to continue the fight.

#### **This year's Start to Finish Award recipients are:**

- **Representative Paul Pacheco**, Driver's License Issuance and Fed Real ID (HB 99)
- **Representative Andy Nunez**, Driver's License Issuance and Fed Real ID (HB 99)
- **Senator George Munoz**, Increase DWI Penalties (SB 118)
- **Representative Sarah Maestas Barnes**, Increase DWI Penalties (SB 118)
- **Representative Sarah Maestas Barnes**, Child Porn Images as Individual Offenses (HB 65)
- **Representative Nate Gentry**, Criminal Justice Clearinghouse (HB 153)

- **Senator Peter Wirth**, Denial of Bail for Certain Felonies (SJR1)
- **Representative Antonio Maestas**, Denial of Bail for Certain Felonies (SJR1)
- **Senator Jacob Candelaria**, Workers Comp Benefits and Intoxication (SB 214)
- **Senator Ted Barela**, Rapid Workforce Development Act (SB 92)
- **Senator Mary Kay Papen**, Assisted Outpatient Treatment Act (SB 113)