



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 21, 2013**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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## **CHAMBER ANNOUNCES VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS AND LEGISLATIVE AWARDS**

*Awards will be presented at the Chamber Board Meeting on June 27*

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM** – The Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce today announced the recipients of the 2012-2013 program year Volunteer Recognition Awards and Legislative Awards. The awards will be presented to the recipients at the Chamber’s board meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. at Embassy Suites Hotel.

The volunteer recognition awards are presented annually to Chamber volunteers and community leaders in recognition of their efforts in helping the Chamber achieve its mission of making Albuquerque and New Mexico a place where businesses can grow and prosper, where people want to raise their families and where tourists want to visit. Recipients will be presented recognition awards while legislators will be recognized with the “E for Effort Award”, the “Start to Finish Award” and the “Key Vote Award.” All three are original cartoons from The Albuquerque Journal’s John Trevor. (Copies of the cartoons are attached).

The legislator’s awards are our way of thanking legislators for the effort- and courage- it takes to keep at it until that good bill gets up to the Governor for a signature,” said Terri Cole, President and CEO of the Chamber. Dr. Paul Roth, Chair of the Chamber adds, “The Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce depends on these amazing volunteers to help make our business community successful. These awards help us recognize how important their contribution is to our success.”

The recipients of **2012-2013 Volunteer Recognition Awards** are:

- **Honorary Lifetime Membership Award – Mr. Don Chalmers, Don Chalmers Ford.** Mr. Chalmers has been chosen to receive this honor for his tremendous support to the chamber by assisting the restructuring immediately following the recession and by referring the NM Drug Card program to the chamber. It has been a great benefit to people using it and to chamber’s non-dues program.
- **Chairman’s Awards for Excellence –Pat Vincent-Collawn, President & CEO, PNM & Tom Antram, President & CEO, French Family of Companies.** This award is given annually to a volunteer or organization(s) who has demonstrated continued support of the Chamber in a variety of leadership positions with extraordinary competence and vigor. This year’s recipients of this award are Pat Vincent-Collawn, President & CEO, PNM & Tom Antram, President & CEO, French Family of Companies for their leadership during our March membership drive.
- **Chairman’s Awards for Community Excellence –Mayor Richard J. Berry.**

The Chairman’s Award for Community Excellence is presented to an individual for contributions to making Albuquerque a better place to live and work. The chamber is presenting the award to Mayor Richard J. Berry for his work on his ABQ The Plan project. ABQ The Plan is forward thinking and when fully implemented will make Albuquerque a better place for business and families.

- **Excellence in Education Award – Kathy Sandoval Snider, AIMS Principal.** 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. This year, the Chamber recognizes Kathy Sandoval Snider, AIMS Principal for her leadership in making AIMS the 42<sup>nd</sup> best school in the nation. She is an “education reform warrior” and works each day to teach every child regardless of socio-economic background.
- **Business Advocate in Politics – Councilor Brad Winter.** This award is given annually to an elected official who has supported the business community in their public policy initiatives. This award is being presented to Councilor Brad Winter for his outstanding support of Albuquerque’s business community during his tenure as a City Councilor.
- **Media Business Leadership Award – Charles Brunt, Albuquerque Journal.** His award is presented annually to a member of the media who excels at fair and balanced reporting. This award is being presented to Charles Brunt from the Albuquerque Journal for his excellent reporting on New Mexico’s military heroes. The chamber has benefited from his reporting by recognizing many of his heroes and heroines at our Annual Armed Forces Banquet.
- **Small Business Member of the Year – Kim Jew Photography.** 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. Kim Jew Photography owner Kim Jew is being awarded this honor because of his perseverance in business. The studio has operated in Albuquerque since 1976 and continues to reinvent itself- now comprised of three studios, 10 staff photographers and 35 employees.
- **Small Business Advocate of the Year – The Loan Fund.** This award is given annually to an individual or organization that has been an effective advocate for small business in New Mexico. The Loan Fund has helped hundreds of people learn, grow, and succeed—creating sustainable businesses and thousands of jobs for our community.
- **Board Member Rookie of the Year – Pamela Gallegos, CEO, Isleta Resort & Casino.** This award is given to a first year Chamber board member for their involvement, enthusiasm and support of the Chamber’s mission. Ms. Gallegos earned this award for her enthusiasm and willingness to engage in the Chamber’s work and support the mission at every turn during her rookie year!

The recipients of **2012-2013 Legislative Awards** are:

**“E” for Effort Awards:**

- Rep Dennis Roch (R) – Teacher Evaluation Bill
- Rep Paul Pacheco (R) – Limit Issuance of Drivers Licenses Bill
- Rep Mary Helen Garcia (D) – Social Promotion Bill

For: Working diligently -without wavering- on bills important to the business community, of which ultimately did not become law. This recognition acknowledges their hard work and encourages them to continue the fight.

**“Start to Finish” Award:**

- Rep Nate Gentry (R), Senator Phil Griego (D), Rep Antonio “Moe” Maestas (D), Speaker of the House Ken Martinez (D), Senator George Munoz (D), Senator John Arthur Smith (D), Rep James Strickler (R) Comprehensive Tax Package
- Senator Stuart Ingle (R) – Sole Contractor Bill
- Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto (D) and Rep James Smith (R) – 72-Hour Agenda Bill
- President Pro Tempore of the Senate Mary Kay Papen (D) and Rep James White (R) – Spaceport Informed Consent Act

For: Working diligently -without wavering- on bills important to the business community, of which ultimately did become law. This recognition acknowledges their hard work.

**“Key Vote” Award:**

- Senator Clemente Sanchez (D)

For: Often crossing party lines- on legislation important to the business community.

**Service Commendation:**

- Rep Henry Kiki Saavedra (D) – Upon announcing his retirement after chairing the House Appropriations and Finance Committee for 24 years and being a member of the New Mexico House of Representatives since 1977, the Chamber would like to thank Rep. Saavedra for his fair and balanced leadership.

Below: Pictures of Award Winners



**Don Chalmers, President, Don Chalmers Ford**



**Mayor Richard J. Berry**



**Pat Vincent-Collawn, President & CEO, PNM**



**Kathy Sandoval-Snider, Principal, AIMS**



**Tom Antram, President & CEO, French Family of Companies**



**Charles Brunt, Reporter, Albuquerque Journal**



**Councilor Brad Winter**



**Rep Paul Pacheco**



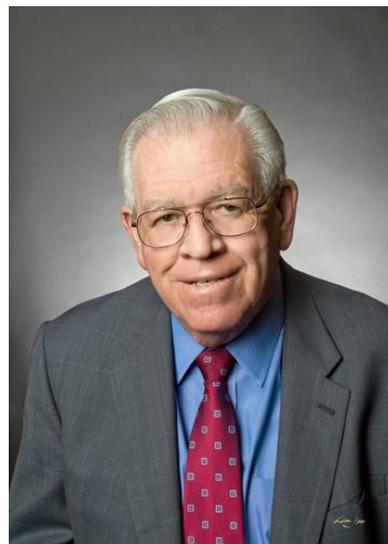
**Pamela Gallegos, CEO, Isleta Resort & Casino**



**Rep Mary Helen Garcia**



**Rep Dennis Roch**



**Senator John Arthur Smith**



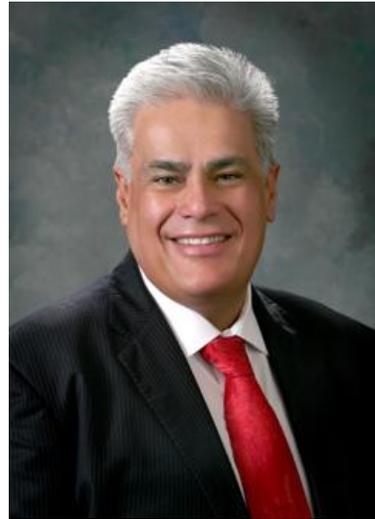
**Sen George Munoz**



**Rep James Strickler**



**Senator Phil Griego**



**Speaker of the House Rep Ken Martinez**



**Rep Nate Gentry**



**Rep Antonio "Moe" Maestas**



**Senator Stuart Ingle**



**Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto**



**Senator Sander Rue**



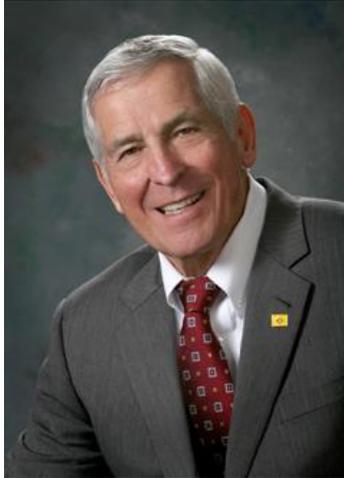
**Senator Mary Kay Papen**



**Rep James Smith**



**Rep James White**



**Rep Henry Kiki Saavedra**



**Senator Clemente Sanchez**

Attachments: Original Cartoons of Albuquerque Journal Cartoonist John Trevor.

***About the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce***

The Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce mission is to make our community a place where businesses can grow and prosper, where people want to raise their families and where tourists want to visit. As the voice of business since 1917, we envision New Mexicans living in safe neighborhoods, working in rewarding careers at thriving businesses, while their children attend great schools, and enjoy their leisure time in one of the most beautiful regions on Earth. More information about the Chamber is accessible online at [www.abqchamber.com](http://www.abqchamber.com).

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