

2016 AMY BIEHL YOUTH SPIRIT AWARD HONOREES

Ages 13-18



FIRST PLACE • SOFIA JENSEN

Sofia has just finished her junior year at Albuquerque Academy. She serves as a member of her school's Community Service Executive Board, organizing and leading all service projects on and off campus. In addition, Sofia is a board member of the Ronald McDonald House Charities Teen Ambassadors and tutors refugee and immigrant children. Her passion for giving is rooted in her experiences witnessing poverty and other struggles both in Brazil and here in Albuquerque. She believes all individuals can have a positive impact on others and strives to spread that sentiment to those around her.

SECOND PLACE • SASHA BUTCHER

Sasha is a sophomore at Volcano Vista High School where she believes in giving back to the community through volunteerism. She says her efforts have led to deeper connections, encouragement, and support with others. Her work includes assisting with packaging at Roadrunner Food Bank, promoting blood drives for United Blood Services, and participating in fundraisers for organizations such as the Barrett House, UNM Children's Hospital, and Casa Esperanza. She is the 2015 Miss New Mexico Outstanding Teen, supports the American Vitiligo Foundation by sharing her story, and volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House.



Ages 19-26

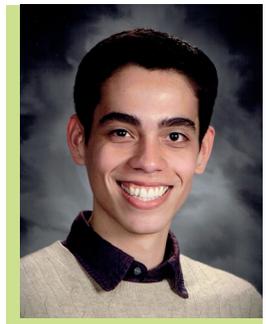


FIRST PLACE • CAROLINA BELMARES ORTEGA

Carolina describes herself as a community advocate for underrepresented groups and a social and educational justice advocate. She has been inspired to serve by witnessing fellow community members struggle with providing a better life for their families. Her work includes providing over 500 hours of direct and indirect service through Crossroads for Women and Maya's Place Programs, as well as the UNM Career Services Center in the areas of trauma, co-morbid diagnosis, and academic and career concerns. She is currently conducting independent research on resiliency in education and counseling and freely shares her findings on a state and national level through workshops. She is committed to spreading the seed of change and promoting peace in this world.

SECOND PLACE • RAUL ANTONIO GRANILLO

Raul has worked as an intern at Partnership for Community Action (PCA) for three summers in the area of civic engagement. His work includes the study of economic security in the South Valley of Albuquerque and finding ways to get young people involved in positive change. He was instrumental in organizing South Valley clean up days, where the majority of volunteers were youth. In addition, he has studied, taught and tutored at Working Classroom, a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to the education of art through a lens of social justice and cultural preservation. He believes in the power of empathy toward others and in the power of individual voices joining together to realize positive change.



ABOUT THIS AWARD

The Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Award was founded by New Mexico Voices for Children in 1993—the year that Amy, a graduate of Santa Fe High School, died while working to end apartheid in South Africa. The award honors both Amy's commitment to serve as well as to recognize young people in New Mexico who have stepped up to bring positive change to their communities and/or the world at large.

Amy Biehl had gone to South Africa at the age of 26 as a Fulbright Scholar to help that country's leaders develop a new constitution. While conducting voter registration for South Africa's first all-race election she lost her life in a riot. After going through the country's Truth and Reconciliation process, Amy's family forgave the men who had participated in her death. Two of those young men work at the Amy Biehl Foundation, which Amy's family created in Cape Town to further her work and honor her life.

2016 SPIRIT of HOPE AWARD HONOREES



NANCY JO ARCHER

Nancy Jo was active in the child and youth service-provider community for over 40 years as the CEO of Hogares, Inc. Hogares served children who experienced significant behavioral problems, were seriously emotional disturbed, were physically or sexually abused, or were using drugs and/or alcohol. The services ranged from outpatient to comprehensive community support services, treatment foster care, and independent living services, to name a few.

Nancy chaired or was a member of a number of organizations, committees, and task forces, including the Governor's Task Force On Children, Youth and Families, which created CYFD. Her service on Boards of Directors includes positions as: Chair of New Mexico Voices for Children for 12 years and Board member for over 20 years; Chair of Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Board member for four years, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Adolescent Continuum; Founder and Chair of the Case Management Collaborative; Founder and Chair of the NM Alliance for Children and Youth; Founder and Chair of the Los Puentes Charter School for at-risk youth; and Chair of Serenity Mesa, a treatment program for heroin-addicted youth. She was also Co-Founder of Bernalillo County Local Collaborative. Through many of these organizations, Nancy worked with the Legislature and other governing bodies to effect change in our communities.

JERRY MONTOYA

Jerry works for the New Mexico Department of Health's Public Health Division as the Health Promotion Program Manager for the Northwest Region. In this position, he provides technical assistance and support to local public health offices and community partners across seven counties in central and northwest New Mexico. He has extensive experience in training, facilitation, and planning and has worked with school districts, emergency management and preparedness committees, as well as a variety of local, county, and state planning teams.

Jerry is also a member the Health Matters New Mexico Team (formerly Bernalillo County Place Matters). In this role he seeks to educate policy-makers and community members about the root causes of poor health, particularly for low-income and minority populations living in Bernalillo County. Working collaboratively with public officials and communities, the HMNM Team provides technical assistance and support to resolve disproportionate environmental burdens in Bernalillo County's most vulnerable communities and reduce the poor health outcomes experienced by those communities that are largely a result of the daily stresses attributed to the environmental and social conditions in which they live.



ABOUT THIS AWARD

The Spirit of Hope Award honors New Mexico's hard-working supporters of programs and services that engage and touch children, making a difference in their lives. Their work has had both subtle and profound impacts, creating a cumulative effect and broader reach that ultimately improves the quality of life for all New Mexicans.

2016 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AWARD HONOREES



SENATOR HOWIE MORALES

Senator Howie Morales began his professional career in 1995 as a special education teacher for the Silver City Consolidated School District. From 2001 to 2005, he was the transition coordinator and head baseball coach for the Cobre Consolidated School District, and was named the New Mexico LULAC Educator of the Year in 2005.

Howie is currently the longest serving volunteer member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Grant County. He is a member of LULAC, Grant County Community Health Council, Gila Regional Foundation Board, Casa Mia Board of Directors, and is Chairman of the Bataan Memorial Park Steering Committee and Silver City Kiwanis Club. Howie was elected County Clerk of Grant County in 2005. In that position, he oversaw the transition from outdated voting machines to newer Edge Touch Screen Machines. He also created a Bureau of Election Department within the Clerk's Office.

On January 9, 2008, he was appointed to the District 28 seat that Senator Ben Altamirano held from 1971 until his death. Howie's legislative accomplishments include working with the Secretary of CYFD to commit an extra \$20 million in unspent federal funds to cover much-needed child care services. He is a strong supporter of education in general and early childhood education in particular, crafting a sufficient budget that funds education, health care, and other essential services, health care reform, Medicaid, and better access to care. He has helped lead the fight to allow behavioral health providers to have due process before their Medicaid funding is cut.

REPRESENTATIVE SHERYL WILLIAMS STAPLETON

Sheryl has had a long tenure as a practicing educator, including as: a teacher at Zia and Wilson Middle Schools in the Albuquerque Public Schools district; an Assistant Principal at the Career Enrichment Center; and Coordinator of the Schools to Careers program. She is now the APS Carl Perkins Project Director and Coordinator of Career and Technical Education. Sheryl's life-long career as an educator has made her a champion for public schools, and their teachers and students. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of all students—particularly minority students and students who face the many challenges of living in poverty.

Sheryl has served for 20 years as the Representative for District 19 and sits on the Education, Labor and Human Resources, and Rules and Order of Business committees. During the interim, Sheryl is an advisory member of the following committees: Legislative Education Study; Courts, Corrections and Justice; and the New Mexico Finance Authority. She is also a member of the Minimum Wage Subcommittee. She was a founding member of the Southeast Heights Gang Intervention Prevention Task Force and the Charlie Morrissey Scholarship Committee. She is a member of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, Mexican American National Women's Organization, and the National Council of Negro Women. She is also the former President of the Duke City Business and Professional Women's organization.



ABOUT THIS AWARD

The Legislative Advocacy Award is given to a legislator who has demonstrated an understanding of the importance of child well-being and a commitment to moving forward policies that have lasting and positive impacts in the areas of health, education, and family economic stability, leading to improvement in communities across the state and in the lives of New Mexico's children.

2016 ALICE KING PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD HONOREE



PAULA TACKETT

Paula, a native of Albuquerque who has lived in Santa Fe for more than 30 years, graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1977—in the same class with U.S. Senator Tom Udall. She clerked for state Court of Appeals Judge Romaine Lopez and Supreme Court Justice Edwin Felter before going into private practice with White, Koch, Kelly & McCarthy. One of her favorite duties with the firm was lobbying the Legislature. Paula's clients included Northern New Mexico Community College. "I discovered that the Legislature was the time of the year I loved the most," Paula said. So in 1982 when she was offered the job of staff attorney with the Legislative Council Services, she couldn't turn it down. In the mid-80s, Paula was promoted to assistant director of the LCS, working under long-time director Clay Buchanan. When Buchanan died in 1988, Paula was hired to replace him.

Paula was named 2010 Public Lawyer of the Year by the New Mexico Bar Association with this citation: "She has come to be known as the institutional memory of the Legislature and has spent countless hours mentoring attorneys, as well as educating law students and the public to enhance open access and knowledge of the legislative process."



ABOUT THIS AWARD

The Alice King Public Service Award honors a public leader who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to and service for New Mexico's children and families. Alice King, former First Lady and wife of Governor Bruce King, had a deep commitment to the health and well-being of New Mexico's children. She is credited with persuading lawmakers to create the state's child welfare agency, the Children, Youth and Families Department. She also founded the New Mexico Girls Ranch and the New Mexico Children's Foundation, was chair of the New Mexico Children's Trust Fund, and was a major supporter of the Carrie Tingley Children's Hospital. Alice King passed away in 2008.

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