



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM,
Governor

MARIANA PADILLA,
Secretary Designate of Public
Education

CASEY STONE-ROMERO,
Director

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Jeff Levine
jeff.levine@dvr.nm.gov
505-954-8530

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 2024 AWARD WINNERS

SANTA FE (December 3, 2024) – The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) of the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR) has announced the recipients of its awards for 2024. This year, the SRC honored two organizations, two NMDVR employees, and one program participant.

“There were many deserving nominees from all across the state,” says SRC Chair Tracy Agiovlasis. “In selecting this year’s honorees, we considered successful partnerships with community-based employers, commitment to inclusive hiring practices, empowering individuals, person-centered services, provision of high-quality services, and noteworthy achievement resulting from successful employment.”

The 2024 SRC Award recipients are:

- **Outstanding Employer: United Brotherhood of Carpenters Local Union 1319, Albuquerque.** The union’s paid apprenticeship can lead to a Journeyman’s license for the many NMDVR participants they have hired, and in just two years they have become a [key employer partner](#) of NMDVR.



Representatives of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters accepting their award from outgoing SRC Chair Sarah Michaud and incoming Chair Tracy Agiovlasis.



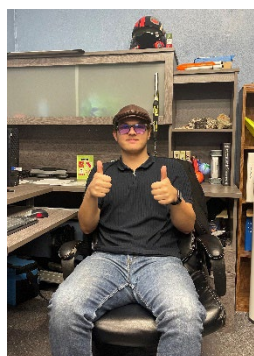
Staff members, along with two of the Assistance Dogs of the West, with their 2024 State Rehabilitation Council Award.

- **Outstanding Nonprofit/Provider: Assistance Dogs of the West, Taos.** This organization has shown that students can successfully hold a job with the skills they learn in their Pre-Employment Transition Services program.

- **Outstanding NMDVR Supervisor: Lisa Jones, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Supervisor, Alamogordo.** Jones is a patient and supportive leader and trainer for her staff, with a sense of humor—all while taking on vacant caseloads herself.



(From left) NMDVR Director Casey-Stone Romero, Lisa Jones, and SRC Member Jen Gelhardt. SRC Chair Tracy Agiovlasis is at the lectern.



Levi Heisinger

- **Outstanding NMDVR Staff Member: Kim Archuleta, Business Analyst II, Santa Fe State Office.** Archuleta worked tirelessly to overhaul essential financial operations within the agency during the past year.

- **Outstanding NMDVR Participant: Levi Heisinger, Alamogordo.** Heisinger is [employed as a full-time educator](#) at the New Mexico Museum of Space History at the age of 19. He also is continuing his education at New Mexico State University-Alamogordo and is creating braille-like plates of all the major constellations for students at the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired to learn about astronomy.

The organizational awards were presented at the Disability Employment Awareness Month Conference and Hiring Event in Albuquerque in October. Individual awards were presented at the NMDVR Statewide Staff Conference in Bernalillo in November.

The New Mexico State Rehabilitation Council reviews, analyzes, and advises the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Tasked with partnering with NMDVR to ensure the highest quality services are made available to those seeking support services, the SRC acts as the external, community-oriented voice in the consideration and development of NMDVR policy. Council members represent a broad range of disabilities and organizations interested in helping New Mexicans with disabilities secure gainful employment.

The New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation helps individuals with disabilities find suitable employment. Vocational rehabilitation is a voluntary program supporting people who want to work. With a long history of success and proven methodology for making the best fits, NMDVR is committed to helping participants thrive in their communities. For more information, visit dvr.state.nm.us or call 505-954-8500.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program receives 78.7% of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For federal fiscal year 2025, the total awarded is \$24,099,900. The remaining 21.3% is funded by state appropriations and transfers from the Commission for the Blind and Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

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