

Lillian M. Torrez Ph.D.

EDUCATION

- **2011: Graduate of NM Aspiring Superintendents Academy**
- **2015: Graduate of AASA national Superintendent Certification Program**
- **1998: Doctor of Philosophy**, University of New Mexico, Educational Leadership and Organizational Communication
- **1989: Education Specialist**, University of New Mexico, Administration
- **1980: Master of Arts**, New Mexico Highlands University, Counseling
- **1977: Bachelor of Arts**, University of New Mexico, Education

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2013-2022: Taos Municipal Schools, Taos, New Mexico, Superintendent

Chief Executive Officer for the state's Northern New Mexico district with 10 schools.

- Re-directed district budget to serve at-risk students targeting the Yazzie/Martinez sufficiency lawsuit.
- Increased graduation rate by 12.5% in 3 years.
- Increased graduation rate to 100% in the Graduation, Reality and Dual-Role Skills System (GRADS) for expectant teens.
- Increased student outcomes in English language Arts (ELA) by 8%.
- Increased student outcomes in math by 5%.
- Increased students in Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses by 11%.
- Implemented District-wide wrap-around services for students to include laptops, internet service, tutoring, supplies, backpacks, housing, lunch, dinner, etc.
- Improved teacher evaluation index from 45% *ineffective* in 90% *effective*.
- Implemented a 1:1 technology initiative for every student in grades Pre-K through 12th.
- Hired (SEL) Social Emotional Learning Coordinator to implement SEL District-wide.
- Implemented Career Academies and increase internships throughout the community.
- Led the Strategic/Accountability Plan and monitored by 30-day plan updates.

Exemplary Accomplishments:

- Received NMCEL Hall of Fame Award (2022)
- Awarded *Taos Citizen Of The Year* (2022)
- Awarded *Rotarian Of The Year* (2021)
- Received the American Superintendents Association (ASAA) National *Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award* (2021)
- President of the New Mexico Superintendents' Association (2018)
- Elected by Superintendents on AASA Governing Board (2014-2020)
- Developed 5-Year Strategic Plan for increased student outcomes (2014)
- Funded 17 National Board Teacher Program candidates (2014)

2012-2013: Questa Independent Schools, Questa, New Mexico, Superintendent

Chief Executive Officer for school district with 5 schools.

- Increased graduation rate by 20% in 2 years.
- Led Strategic/Accountability Plan and monitored by 30-day plan updates.
- Supported 10 teachers to achieve National Board Teacher Certification.

Exemplary Accomplishments:

- Awarded ‘Administrator of the Year’ by New Mexico National Board Teacher Network (2014)
- Increased school grades at over half of Questa’s schools (2014)
- Awarded ‘Most Improved’ for Facilities/Maintenance by PSFA (2013)
- Developed 7-Year Strategic Plan with staff and community (2013)
- Supported 10 National Board Teacher candidates (2013)

2011-2012: Cuba Independent School District, Cuba, New Mexico, Director of Programs

Academic Leader for Curriculum and Instruction, Special Education, Title I, II, III, IV, VII, VIII, all Federal Programs and 21st Century grant and Professional Development.

- Increased in Cuba High School grade from *F* in *B GRADE*.
- Increased after-school tutoring by 70% with a second route of bus transportation/dinner.

Exemplary Accomplishments:

- Wrote/awarded AASA grant for every student to have shoes (2012)
- Developed after-school tutoring program (2011)
- Funded and promoted 10 National Board Teacher candidates (2011)
- Strategic partnerships with 3 Native American Chapter Houses (2011)
- Restructured and improved **special education** programs (2011)

2002-2011: St. Pius High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico, High School Administrator

- School-wide operations of student safety, security, discipline, health and attendance.
- Substance Abuse Review Board, lunch supervision schedule and student handbook.

Exemplary Accomplishments:

- Graduate of NMCEL Aspiring Superintendents’ Academy (2011)
- Selected Diplomat for American Psychotherapy Association (2008)

1996-2002: Albuquerque Public School District, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Principal

Responsible for student academic outcomes, safety, social, emotional, and physical wellness.

- Increased student test scores from 8% to 52% in 7 years to meet AYP.
- Lobbied and worked with NM Legislators on several educational committees/teams.
- Led negotiations APS District-wide for Evaluation Specialists contracts (2001).

- Served on Principals' Year-Round School Committee; Principals' Redesign Team; UNM Interview Committee; APS recruiting/hiring Team; APS Strengthening Quality in Schools Committee; Superintendent's: Strategic Management Committee and Superintendent's Facilities and Planning Committee.

Exemplary Accomplishments:

- Awarded 2002 APS Principal of the Year
- Improved student outcomes by 400% to meet AYP (2001)
- Mentored 7 of teachers for administrative positions in APS (1998)
- Received the *National Title I School Improvement Award* by US Depart of Education for highest improvement in the country (1997)
- Reduced staff turnover from 90% to 10% (1997)
- Recruited 50% of teachers with Bilingual Certification (1997)

1992-1996: Albuquerque Public Schools, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Assistant Principal

1987-1992: Albuquerque Public Schools, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Guidance Counselor

1977-1987: Albuquerque Public Schools, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Special Education Teacher

Exemplary Accomplishments:

- Mentored 3 aspiring teachers into administration (1995)
- Selected by APS to visit Germany **special education** system (1994)
- *Women on the Move Award* by YWCA (1991)
- Created Modeling Club for high-risk students (1990)
- Received *Hero Award* from mid-school students school-wide (1990)
- Honored with *Outstanding Women of New Mexico Award* by NM Governor (1988)
- Special Education Department Head for 22 teachers (1985)
- Selected by APS to visit China's **special education** programs (1985)

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Mentor for AASA Latina/Latino Aspiring Superintendent Academy (2021)
- Nominated for New Mexico Superintendent of the Year (2019)
- Featured in School Administrator, AASA magazine (2016)
- Graduate of New Mexico Aspiring Superintendents' Program, New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders (2012)
- Albuquerque Public Schools, Featured on cover of *Perspective* (2001)
- Featured on cover of The Albuquerque Business Education Compact, Vol.13, 1st (1999)
- Featured on The Cover of The Round Table-The Rotary Club, Vol. LXXXII No.16 (1996)

DISTRICT AWARDS AND HONORS

- Selected by Governor Grisham for NM Education Transition Team (2019)
- Fourteen teachers achieved National Teacher Board Certification or are candidates (2019)
- Two teachers earned Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction (2019)
- Awarded 26 grants to increase student outcomes for Community Schools, etc. (2019)
- Selected as a Blue Ribbon School (2017)

SELECTED BOARDS AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- Taos Pueblo Education Committee, Member
- NM Alliance for College and Career Readiness, Co-Chair
- American Superintendents Association, Executive Board, Member
- American Superintendents Association Governing Board, Member
- American Superintendents Association Election Committee, Member
- Regional Education Cooperative II, Northern NM Executive Board, Secretary
- (CES) Cooperative Educational Services, Executive Board Member
- New Mexico School Superintendents' Association, Past-President
- New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders, Board Member
- University of New Mexico Curriculum Advisory Board, Member
- Albuquerque Human Rights Board, Past-President
- Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents, Member
- Taos Milagro Rotary, Member