



What is a New Mexican?

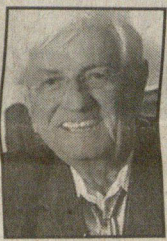
To Our Readers

In an UpFront column published in the July 9 Journal, business reporter Win Quigley wrote about dismal rankings New Mexico often gets in national surveys and how some leaders in the state appear to be burning out. Near the end of his column, he wrote: "I cannot name a civic, political, business or media leader who can tell you what it means to be a New Mexican. I'm no leader, but I can't do it either." To test that theory, the Journal asked an assortment of New Mexico leaders to share with

our readers what it means to them to be a New Mexican — in 100 words or less. Many thanks go out to those who took time from their busy schedules to respond. (And almost all kept to the word limit.) All are native or longtime New Mexicans whose current positions don't include the many leadership roles they have willingly undertaken here for many years. — Dan Herrera
Editorial Page Editor

Close-knit societal fabric with networks

Being a New Mexican means to take a great deal of pride in the history, diversity of the landscape and people, the industry and culture of New Mexico. Most of all, however, we are unique in that we enjoy a close-knit societal fabric featuring strong family ties and the existence and importance of being in and staying in networks.



Carruthers

Being a New Mexican means we respect all of the above and enjoy a mostly rural and high quality of life while appreciating the caring nature of most New Mexicans. In New Mexico, one does not have to have status to be comfortable and walk among the people.

GARREY CARRUTHERS
President, NMSU
Former N.M. Governor

A huge commitment to our community

As I ponder this question and how to respond, I keep coming back to one thing: Pride! I'm proud to be a New Mexican. I'm proud of my roots and of my heritage; I celebrate my culture daily. Faith and family are very much a part of that culture.



Romero

I'm blessed in that as president of this chamber I get to work with some of the most talented and passionate people in this country. That includes business owners, community leaders, young people and individuals from all walks of life. They are highly motivated, inspired, optimistic and visionary people with a huge commitment to their community.

They inspire me, and we all care deeply about New Mexico and our future.

I believe that we live in the land of opportunity. I am confident my children and generations to follow will prosper and continue to honor our heritage. The best is yet to come.

ALEX O. ROMERO
President/CEO, Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce

There's no place where we'd rather succeed

Having had the chance to travel around the country and interact with business and health care leaders, it is very clear to me that every state has problems; we just seem to lament ours more. A New Mexico leader knows two things. The first is that we

can do better in this state and we need to start by doing better in our businesses. The second is that there is no place we'd rather succeed than right here. The New Mexicans I most admire are those who know that true success is not a spectator sport.



Hinton

JIM HINTON
President/CEO, Presbyterian Health-care Services

Individuals perpetuate a better democracy

I would like to personally thank Winthrop Quigley for his excellent Upfront Journal article.

What it means to me to be a New Mexican (native) is to be educated physically, mentally, morally, socially and spiritually so that I will continue to be a well-rounded individual, perpetuating a better democracy. I would encourage all New Mexicans to get involved in our communities, and lend a helping hand to those in need. Together we are all part of the solution.



Lewis

JAMES LEWIS
State Treasurer

Mix of peoples makes us authentic, modest

Being a New Mexican means access, tolerance, acceptance, opportunity, freedom and hope. It's a place that attracts those who seek a new start in a new land where hard work is rewarded.

One cannot look at the many landscapes in New Mexico without feeling an upwelling of emotion. The mingling of many peoples under the vast sky and sun in New Mexico define us as authentic and modest people.

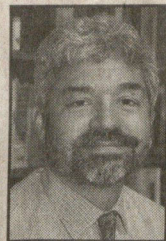


Cole

A lack of enterprise, vision and ambition

Most New Mexicans live in a great climate with four seasons; Are poorly educated; Surrounded by natural beauty; Can't/won't read a book about that beauty's origins; Have moved from an agrarian economy to government support;

Have poor health insurance and care; Have their hands out to the government; Have a strong sense of three diverse histories; But have no knowledge of those histories; Lack enterprise, vision and ambition; And Quigley nailed it, we elect mediocre, at best, leaders at all political levels. We need strong visionary leaders with altruistic motives, willing to make difficult decisions for the greater good.



Trapp

R. BRAIDEN TRAPP
Managing Editor, Rio Grande SUN
Former President, New Mexico Press Association

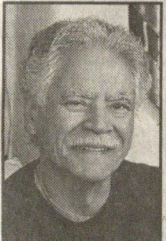
Education is key; let's celebrate teachers

Educate! Educate! Educate! Let's invest in our young people. Quit saying we're throwing money at education! Say we're investing in the future.

The governor's grading system does not teach, it's teachers in the classroom who teach. Let's celebrate teachers!

The University of New Mexico and Albuquerque Public Schools can organize a Young Mentors Program, taking mature UNM students from all disciplines and having them mentor in the schools where most help is needed. Teach New Mexico history, Spanish language and teach nature and conservation.

Malala in talking to a United Nations conference of young people said: "One child, one teacher, one book — can change the world." Let's get our students reading books and not just preparing to take tests.



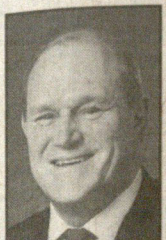
Anaya

RUDOLFO ANAYA
Award-winning novelist

To be a New Mexican is to follow Lobo pledge

For me, to be a New Mexican is to be a Lobo. A three time graduate of UNM, I now have the privilege of being its president.

Each year our freshman class takes the LOBO pledge based on the letters in the mascot's moniker. It is a commitment to Lead with courage and integrity; Open our minds to the diversity of people and ideas; Be engaged in our community, making a difference in the lives of others; and Own our future, through the pursuit of



Frank

academic and personal excellence. It is these attributes that define us as Lobos and New Mexicans.

BOB FRANK
President, UNM

We have the vision and stamina to change

Recent economic and education news is bad enough to make each of us who loves our state reflect on what in our values or our leadership has led us to this point.

The pride of being a New Mexican comes from reverence for our natural environment, from our respect for the cultures of our state, for art and for a general appreciation for what a person can do and for the goodness of their soul rather than their wealth or who their parents were.

We are hard workers and have a sense of community. Our cultural diversity and our admiration for creativity are our strengths. These values we must protect and nurture.

But there are other values or norms that we must now re-examine and reject.

We must look to see if we are suspicious of achievement rather than admiring it. We must look at our leaders as though we were at war, which we are; a war to feed and educate our children for the new world that requires math and science and critical thinking for virtually every job.

We must adopt the strategy and tactics that will attract good jobs and significant business from out of state to jump start our economy. We must support those businesses and individuals who are here and successful.

We must ask our media why there is so little celebration of our successes.

I am neither discouraged nor disabled by where we stand today. I am energized and believe that when roused we New Mexicans will first have the needed vision and then the stamina to make and insist on change for the better.

ROBERTA COOPER RAMO
Former President, American Bar Association

Respect for the value of cultural diversity

My roots in three distinct areas of New Mexico allow me to appreciate the value of cultural diversity — a quality we tend to underestimate.

My parents were from Socorro, I grew up in Santa Fe, and then moved to Albuquerque to obtain a higher education and practice law.



Esquivel

Being a New Mexican is a blessing not captured in national rankings over income or test scores. It's more about living among citizens who respect differences in ethnicity, family and faith.

While there is no national ranking to quantify being open-minded, I'm happy to raise my children in a place where coexistence and tolerance are the social norm.

MARTIN ESQUIVEL
President, Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education

A unique relationship to our environment

We are the tension between the views of our largest city and, say, Pie Town.

We are a place where adjoining counties deeply contrast one of the richest in the country to one of the poorest.

We are a culture of great diversity, defining who we are yet unable to provide a common definition of progress.

Importantly, however, we are also a place of deep spiritual roots, endless skies and staggering sunsets, all of which are emblematic of our unique relationship to our environment and how we view the world.

JIM FOLKMAN
Executive Director, Home Builders Association of Central New Mexico

Urban, rural, tribal; we know what we want

What are New Mexicans? I draw on the wisdom of hundreds of people who have taken part in New Mexico First town halls.

We are a diverse culture, with courage learned from generations who overcame adversity. We are families, businesspeople, teachers, farmers, researchers. We are urban, rural, tribal. We value natural resources, our many languages, businesses and strong leadership.

And we know what we desire for our future.

We want a flourishing economy that enables young adults to remain here. We want adaptive educational and safety-net systems that provide students and families skills for an ever-changing world. We envision ourselves as a global leader in safe, diversified energy production.

Fundamentally, we take pride in the New Mexico of today and anticipate an even brighter tomorrow.

HEATHER W. BALAS
President/Executive Director, New Mexico First