

Rural Partners Network Staff in New Mexico

Michael Rivera is the Director of the Rural Partners Network (RPN) for Rural Development of the United States Department of Agriculture. He has over 25 years in senior executive level experience including: Chief of Staff at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Chief of Staff at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, Chief Executive Officer at Native American Professional Parent Resources, Inc., Executive Director at Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, Inc., State Director of the New Mexico Small Business Development Center, Tribal Administrator at Nambé Pueblo, Small Business Liaison Officer at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Activity and Special Projects Director at New Mexico Highlands University. Rivera also served as the Mora County Manager in northeastern New Mexico. He is also the Chief Executive of his own training and consulting firm, Professional Service Executives which provides training and consulting services in strategic planning, feasibility studies, system/process improvement, external evaluation, policy development, board development, business planning, budget planning, meeting facilitation, grant writing and effective leadership. He has also served as adjunct professor at New Mexico Highlands University, Luna Community College, and Northern New Mexico College.



Raul Hurtado was hired as a community development planner for the Northern New Mexico Pathways Economic Development District encompassing Colfax, Mora, San Miguel, and Taos counties. He comes from the U.S. Forest Service where he held several community liaison positions in north central N.M. where he coordinated and organized community resource fairs to connect the public that were impacted by the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon (HPCC) fires. His career also saw him working with residents of under-served communities with a need for assistance.



Kristi Ortiz was hired as a community development planner assigned to our Rural Partners Network program. Kristi has worked in local governments for 25 years of working with local governments in southwest New Mexico. She began working at the City Bayard in 1994 and eventually became the municipal clerk in 2004. Over the years she secured millions of federal and state dollars for the City of Bayard. Including funding from Rural Development. Kristi is assigned to the RPN Southwest New Mexico Community Network which encompasses the counties of Catron, Hidalgo, Grant, and Luna.



Patsy Villalobos was recently promoted to State Community Development Specialist for the Rural Partners Network Program. Before her promotion, she was the Senior Loan Specialist for Single Family Housing and has over ten years of specialized experience and comprehensive knowledge in Rural loans and grants, and the Mutual Self-Help Program. Patricia is a highly motivated Specialist passionate about learning more, engaging and drawing on existing USDA partner relationships, and bringing her expertise to the Rural Partners Network Program.

