



New Mexico Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501-2786
ped.state.nm.us

Dr. Veronica C. García
Secretary of Education

Beverly Friedman and Danielle Montoya
Public Information Officers
505-827-6661 505-476-0393

Bev.Friedman@state.nm.us Danielle.Montoya@state.nm.us

For Immediate Release

Santa Fe – Governor Bill Richardson today announced that Education Secretary Veronica C. García will retire effective July 1, 2010 and in the fall will join the Hispanic Information & Telecommunications Network, Inc (HITN) as Vice President and Chief Academic Officer. HITN is viewed in over 30 million homes nationwide.

Governor Richardson said, “During her tenure as Education Secretary, Veronica has held New Mexico students to high standards, ensured teacher quality, and built the comprehensive reform agenda *Making Schools Work*. Since I appointed her, New Mexico has consistently ranked top in the nation for standards, assessments, accountability, nutrition standards and mitigating the impacts of poverty. She has brought much national recognition to the state and her work has strengthened New Mexico’s educational system. Her most recent effort on the State’s Race to the Top application was characteristic of her talent for bringing the community together to accomplish great things for kids.”

Dr. Veronica C. García was appointed as New Mexico’s first Secretary of Education in 2003. Under her leadership student achievement steadily increased over the past five years, graduation rates improved, and communities and businesses statewide took a formal advisory role in improving education in New Mexico. In 2008, her outstanding leadership was recognized by the National Governors Association for Distinguished Service to State Government.

Secretary García said, “As Secretary, I make every decision with the students of New Mexico in mind. I am proud of the strong reform foundation we have built. We are only seeing the beginning fruits of the work we have accomplished over the last seven years and I am proud of the progress we are already making. I want to thank Governor Richardson for this opportunity to serve the state and for his advocacy for improving education. I also want to thank the committed teachers and leaders on the frontlines of education for their commitment to the students of New Mexico. I am very excited to join HITN in the fall. As Vice President and Chief Academic Officer I will continue to empower students, engage communities, and take action for positive change.”

José Luis Rodriguez, HITN President & CEO said, “I am extremely pleased to announce that Veronica will be joining the team at HITN as Vice President and Chief Academic Officer. Her extensive and distinguished background in education will be invaluable in advancing our mission. She will ensure that the highest standards of excellence in education are met and exceeded in all aspects of HITN programming...”

Governor Richardson also announced he will appoint Susanna Murphy to replace García as Secretary of Education. Murphy is currently a member of the faculty of the University of New Mexico’s College of Education.

Murphy has been an educator and administrator for more than 30 years. She has a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Pennsylvania State University, and both a master's and doctorate in Educational Administration from New Mexico State University.

Murphy began her career in Mescalero where she taught and served five years as an elementary school principal. After that she spent seven years as Superintendent of Tularosa schools. She has also served as Deputy State Superintendent of Instruction for the New Mexico Department of Education and Executive Director of the New Mexico Research and Study Council at UNM.

###