



Outstanding Women of Valencia County

VALENCIA
COUNTY News-Bulletin



Victoria Archuleta

Victoria Archuleta is the senior economic developer for the village of Los Lunas.

She is a seventh-generation native New Mexican and the granddaughter of Mexican immigrants. Born and raised in Albuquerque, her family roots hail from Northern New Mexico, specifically the village of Wagon Mound and Mora County. She is a member of the boards of director of the Greater Valencia County Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Los Lunas.



She was the UNM Anderson School of Management's 2024 Spring commencement graduate keynote speaker; Albuquerque the Magazine Superwomen Recognition (October 2024); named "The Visionary" for creative leadership and ingenuity in business; New Mexico ChangeMakers Fellow (2024); Albuquerque Business First 40 Under 40 Honoree (2023).

What made you decide to pursue the career path you're currently on?

"I was inspired by the strong, trailblazing women in economic development who paved the way before me. This type of work was always exciting to me, so when the opportunity arose, I seized it! Today, many of the women I once looked up to have become great friends and mentors."

What is the biggest challenge and most rewarding aspect of your profession?

"The biggest challenge is meeting the diverse and demanding needs of a growing community, especially as a division of one. The most rewarding part is seeing real results — businesses growing, people finding gainful employment and families benefiting from the opportunities I've helped create."

What advice do you have for aspiring women looking to advance their careers?

"Toot your own horn — if you don't, no one else will. Confidence and self-advocacy are essential in advancing your career. Believe in your worth, speak up and take credit for your accomplishments, and take up space in every room you enter."

"Surround yourself with mentors, who challenge and uplift you and never stop seeking opportunities for growth. Most importantly, as you rise, lift others with you — success is most powerful when it's shared."

What is one of your accomplishments that you are most proud of?

"One of my proudest accomplishments is being the first-generation and first woman in my family to attend a four-year university and continuing on to earn my executive MBA in global leadership. Breaking that barrier was incredibly meaningful — not just for me, but for all my family members that followed and turn to me for support."

"As a first-generation college graduate, I know firsthand the power of education in creating opportunities and changing the trajectory of a family. That journey has fueled my passion for economic development and my commitment to making a lasting impact in New Mexico."

How do you stay motivated and inspired as a leader?

"My grandmother is my greatest supporter, especially after my mom's passing in July 2024. She keeps me grounded and will always hype me up when I need it."

"I'm also deeply motivated to set a positive example for my 15-year-old sister (who is now in my care after our mom's passing) to show her that hard work, education and determination can create a brighter future. I also take time to disconnect and go for walks with my dog."

Who was/is your role model or mentor?

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Ariel Esquibel

Ariel Esquibel is the assistant chief of EMS for city of Belen Fire Department. She is a La Cueva High School graduate; and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science (UNM); a Master of Science degree in physical education with concentration in adapted physical education and sports administration (UNM); an associate degree in applied science in EMS focus of paramedic (CNM).

Her family includes her fiancé, Nathaniel Boggus; soon-to-be-stepchildren, Nathaniel Boggus II and Savannah Boggus; father, Edwin Esquibel; mother, Rosalind Chan-Esquibel; and brother, Ezra Esquibel.

She is the coordinator of the Law Enforcement Torch Run Agency (Special Olympics New Mexico); and is a member of the 505 Master's Water Polo Club.

What is the biggest challenge and most reward-

ing aspect of your profession?

"The biggest challenge would actually be two things: time management and mental strain. Since this profession is always needed, we need to be able to complete tasks in a timely manner, regardless of what it may be. Mental strain is caused by the types of 911 calls that we respond to. We see traumatic things that most people would never imagine is possible."

"The other side to this is that even if it doesn't seem traumatic to us, we see people on what can be considered the worst days of their lives; and that is going to be mentally straining on anyone."

"The most rewarding aspect of this profession are the thanks and appreciation that we receive. It's a wonderful and heart-warming feeling when someone you helped, or a family member of someone you helped, gives you their genuine thanks for what you did. We don't get that very often, but when it does happen, it's a feeling that is hard to describe."

Do you enjoy your job as much today as when you started?

"I do enjoy my job, but I enjoy it in a different aspect as when I first started. When I started, I worked more in the field, and now I've moved into a more administrative position. These two jobs are so different and are comparable like apples are to oranges, or pineapples and watermelons."

Have you had any life-changing experiences that led you to where you are today?

"I went to school for something completely different, and couldn't find any jobs. I was stuck in situations where I couldn't get a job without experience, but I couldn't get the experience without a job. There were no internships that I could get to gain experience needed. This was all for my original degree field, which was for exercise science, and because of that, I changed back to paramedic, knowing that I would always be able to get a job in the medical field."

"I started at AMR in Valencia County and Albuquerque and got to know the staff of the city of Belen Fire Department. After obtaining my paramedic license, I started volunteer-



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Rhonda Flores

Rhonda Flores is a counselor at Valencia High School. She has a bachelor's degree in human resource management from New Mexico State University, and a master's degree in school counseling from New Mexico Highlands University.

She has two daughters, Anjelica, age 22, a graduate from Century High School; and Gloria, age 25, graduate from Los Lunas High School; and one granddaughter, Danielle, age 4.

She is involved with Upward Bound through UNM-Valencia as the on-call counselor, which serves Belen, Los Lunas and Valencia high schools.



How do you achieve work-life balance?

"I achieve a balance by making my home my rescue, my safe place, my sanctuary. I take time for myself by enjoying the quiet time of taking care of my four dogs and feeding a flock of birds that live in my evergreen trees that line my front yard. I remember to take time to appreciate nature and am in awe of the sunrises and sunsets New Mexico gives us each day."

What made you decide to pursue the career path you're currently on?

"I started working for Los Lunas Schools in 2001 as a career transition specialist at Los Lunas High School. I worked with all grade levels and developed a Career Pathway Program through the Advisory Program.

"At LLHS, I worked alongside the counseling department to complement the work of a school counselor. After two years, I decided to pursue my master's degree in school counseling as I was intrigued with the work coming from the counseling office and the 1:1 work with students.

"I became a licensed school counselor in 2004. I decided to pursue school counseling because of the many students that this career allows me to meet, interact with and how I can help them achieve their potential as human beings. I continue to feel invigorated and challenged with the work I am blessed to do each and every day."

How do you stay motivated and inspired as a leader?

"The students inspire me and help me stay motivated. They are the true essence of a school. Hearing them share their accomplishments, their difficult times and their joyful experiences makes me want to strive and lead them with grace and energy.

I also believe that working with an amazing counseling team at LLHS and now at VHS also provides motivation and passion for what I do."

What is the biggest challenge and most rewarding aspect of your profession?

"The biggest challenge is when potential of a student can be seen and the student is unable to tap into that potential. When I work with a student and provide the many avenues for success, work to create the path toward graduation, and when a student makes a choice to not follow their chosen path. That is one of the hardest things for me as a school counselor.

"The most rewarding aspect is to watch the growth of a student from ninth grade to 12th grade. To be a part of that growth and development is

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Rita Garcia

Rita Garcia is the marketing manager at UNM-Valencia, and has a bachelor's degree in journalism, advertising and public relations, and another bachelor's degree in Spanish. She has one daughter, Danielle, who graduated college with a bachelor's degree in science . Garcia has served in local chamber boards, including Belen, Los Lunas and the Hispano Chamber. She is also part of the development of Valencia County Partnership, which builds a network of communication with schools, local businesses and college campuses.



What advice do you have for aspiring women looking to advance their careers?
“Focus on your strong skills, and talents. Most likely, it will lead you to a career and a life that you’ll love and can make an impact for you and those around you.”

Who is your mentor?
“Many inspiring mentors, starting in grade school through now. My grade school teacher, Mrs. Sanchez, who always challenged me to the next level, even if I didn’t know it then. My high school yearbook and photography teacher brought out the creative side. My college Profesora de Español, who inspired me somehow to write the ‘Don Quixote’ essays, in español. Work colleagues have always offered encouragement, help and hilarious memories.

“My most inspiring mentor has been my mom, and her sisters (my aunties). She’s one of five, and every one of them, ever since I can remember, are so determined to make a better life for each of us kids and show us how to make it happen.”

Have you had any life-changing experiences that led you to where you are today?
“Professionally, I can’t pinpoint one life-changing experience, but more like a progression of events that opened doors. High school grad, to college, internships, college graduation, starting career, working in different arenas, gaining valuable experiences to lead

me to my present marketing role at UNM-Valencia.”

What are your accomplishments that you are most proud of?
“To mark accomplishments in life, it takes a team of supporters, I’m proud to have a team encouraging me in one way or another. Family, even though sometimes, is brutally honest, pulls me in the right direction. I’m also a proud parent, of a daughter who’s even more determined than I could imagine.”

If you could say one thing to your younger self or give them one piece of advice, what would it be?
“Take time to enjoy the ride. It’s OK if it all doesn’t happen according to a time schedule. When it comes to the comfort zone, embrace the unknown a little bit at a time and see if it fits.”

What legacy do you want to leave?
“In my opinion, it’s important for each of us to know our traditions, our culture, and what we can pass on in wisdom, values for upcoming generations. My teenage self may not have realized at the time but having moved away from family and while experiencing other cultures, and other family traditions, it certainly reinforced my family core values to make for a better life.
“I hope my legacy includes those family traditions, strong work ethic, generous quality-time with relationships, and life preparation skills.”

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Ruth Huning-Gonzales

Ruth Huning-Gonzales is the manager of Huning LLC, and was formerly an HR manager for Niagara Bottling and BNSF Railway.

She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from New Mexico State University, and a master's degree in business administration from Kansas State University.

She is married to her husband, Thomas J. Gonzales; and they have one son, Samuel, and a daughter, Madeline.

She serves on the UNM-Valencia Campus Development Board, the board of directors for Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance (AREA). She is also a member of the Greater Albuquerque Association of Realtors and holds a SCP from the Society of Human Resource Management.

What is the biggest challenge and most rewarding aspect of your profession?

"The most rewarding aspect of my profession is the ability to help bring in companies that benefit our community and provide jobs for our citizens. The biggest challenge of my profession has been the learning curve that came with switching from a career in human resources to one that is real estate centric."

What motivates your community involvement and being an active presence in the community?

"My motivation comes from my desire to give back to the community that I live and work in. Watching my father and his love of our community was influential in my upbringing, and continues to guide me today from the work that I do to the boards and organizations I am involved with."

How do you achieve work-life balance?

"I try to achieve work-life balance by setting clear boundaries with my time between work and personal life, remaining flexible and planning time off to spend with my family and practice self care."

What is one of your accomplishments that you are most proud of?

"One of the accomplishments that I am most proud of is being part of the team that brought the

UNM-Valencia Campus Workforce Training Center to fruition. It was a long time goal of my father's and great uncle's to see UNM-VC have a presence on the west side of Los Lunas for our students and residents, and I was honored that I could help make that a reality.

How do you define success in life?

"To me, success in life is being able to achieve the goals that you have set for yourself, whether those be professional or personal goals or a combination of the two."

What is the best advice you received and from whom?

"The best advice I received was from my father, Louis Huning. He always taught me to listen to understand rather than to just respond. This is such a valuable skill, because too often people aren't listening to others to truly understand the issues or the question."



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Lilly B. Irvin-Vitela

Lilly B. Irvin-Vitela is the president and owner of Community Connects Consulting in Peralta. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of New Mexico as a Presidential Scholar. She graduated with a bachelor of arts in political science and philosophy and is an alumnus of the General Honors Program. Lilly also earned a masters in community and regional planning from the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning.

She is a mother of two adult children and she's a wife. She is also a daughter, sister, auntie, cousin, niece, godmother and dog mama to three. Lilly has made family with friends who are like siblings and is the honorary auntie to many.

She is the vice president of New Mexico Voters First and the treasurer of the New Mexico Local News Fund.

What motivates your community involvement and being an active presence in the community?

"I genuinely believe that, together, we have everything it takes to solve problems and create healthier

communities by working together."

What advice do you have for aspiring women looking to advance their careers?

"Do what you are passionate about and nurture that with principled relationships and strong business practices."

Do you enjoy your job as much today as when you started?

"Every day I am thankful for doing work that is aligned with my values and allows me to meet and get to know people across New Mexico and the country. I'm always learning and growing. Through my work, I also get to witness and support learning and growth in and among others.

"As I've become older, I've had the privilege of being super choosy about who I work with and what I work on professionally. There is tremendous satisfaction and joy in supporting people to make a positive difference."

Who was/is your role model or mentor?

"I've been blessed with many teachers and mentors in school and across my professional life. However, my maternal grandmother's faith, deep understanding and commitment to community, and courage to work toward healing and justice is probably my most significant influence."

Have you had any life-changing experiences that

led you to where you are today?

"I grew up in a family like many New Mexico families. There was both love and struggle, beauty and brutality, deep connection and despair. Through it all we've loved one another, tried to lift each other up, and worked toward healing when we've fallen short.

"That complexity gave me the capacity to see people, places, situations, and policy issues from many perspectives and with profound empathy. I think that has made me who I am and led me to a life of service."

What legacy do you want to leave?

"Among my family and friends, I hope the legacy I'm building is one of love, understanding, dignity, and connection. I hope that people who have worked with me professionally have felt more connected to their own values, beliefs, and capacity to make positive changes in their personal and community lives."



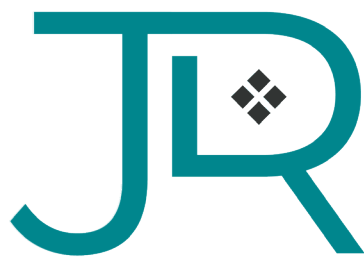
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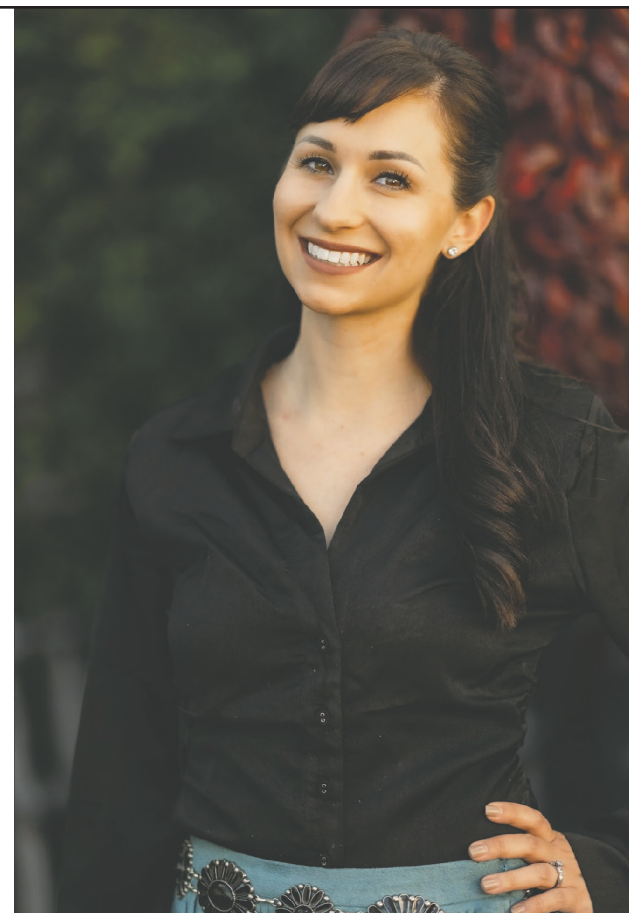
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Summer Ludwig



Summer Ludwig, the grant coordinator for the city of Belen, is working on her bachelor's degree in business administration.

She married her husband, William, on May 24, 2003. They have three children, Betsi (30), Liam (25) and Alan (18); and they have two granddaughters, (Betsi's girls) Joey, 10, and Stevie, 8.

She is the chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Valencia County and serves as secretary on the board of the Valencia County Literacy Council, and is a member of Friends of the Belen Public Library, Policy Council Community Member - Mid-West NMCA, and treasurer of the Community

Advocacy Committee.

Advocacy Committee.

What is the biggest challenge and most rewarding aspect of your profession?

"The biggest challenge is navigating the complexities of grant requirements, deadlines and reporting. Each funder has different expectations.

"The most rewarding aspect is seeing the impact of funded projects. Knowing that your work directly contributes to community improvements, new programs, or much-needed services makes all the effort worthwhile."

Have you had any life-changing experiences that led you to where you are today?

"Raising my autistic son required stepping away from my career for years, but it gave me invaluable skills — navigating complex systems, advocating for resources and problem-solving. That experience shaped my passion for grant work, where I now help Belen access funding to improve lives, just as I did for my family."

What advice do you have for aspiring women looking to advance their careers?

"Finding a mentor is key — someone who can guide, support and challenge you. Build a strong network, advocate for yourself and never stop learning. Confidence comes from experience, so take on chal-

lenges even if you feel unready. Most importantly, lift other women as you rise — success is stronger when shared."

What motivates your community involvement and being an active presence in the community?

"I believe strong communities are built through engagement and action. Seeing the impact of advocacy, resources and collaboration motivates me to stay involved. Whether it's securing funding, supporting local initiatives or uplifting others, I'm driven by the belief that positive change starts with showing up and making a difference."

If you could say one thing to your younger self or give them one piece of advice what would it be?

"I would tell my younger self to never stop learning, stand up for equality in all forms and always lead with kindness. Every challenge is an opportunity to grow, and true success comes from lifting others along the way. Believe in your voice — it has the power to create change."

How do you define success in life?

"I define success as making a meaningful impact — helping others, advocating for fairness, and continuously learning. It's not just about personal achieve-

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JENNIFER EYLICIO

If you don't already know her, meet Jennifer Eylicio, Associate Broker with Realty One of New Mexico and a true expert in Valencia County real estate.

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Rose Poitras

Rose Poitras is the Bosque Farms Community Center director. She completed high school, and received quite a bit of education through life experience.

She has been married for 43 years and has five wonderful children and their spouses. Rose has 10 beautiful grandchildren, plus one on the way.

She is a member of the Valencia County Older American Program Advisory Board.

What goal(s) are you working toward right now?

"Maintaining a broad volunteer base and a healthy work-life balance are my priorities."

What is the biggest challenge and most rewarding aspect of your profession?

"My biggest challenge is increasing public aware-

ness of what is offered to them at the community center. The most rewarding aspect is the love and appreciation that I receive from community members. I also thoroughly enjoy seeing new friendships form and hearing the buzz of voices and occasional laughter throughout the day."

What advice do you have for aspiring women looking to advance their careers?

"Decide what is truly important to you in life and find work or a career path that would support that goal. It sounds obvious, but work is usually the means used to accomplish our most passionate life goals, by either making those goals financially viable or fulfilling them through the joy of the work itself."

Do you enjoy your job as much today as when you started?

"It is much busier than when I began almost 14 years ago, so it takes considerably more energy than at first, but I unquestionably still enjoy fulfilling this role in the community."

"I am a people person and this is the people-iest job that I could have ever imagined!"

Who was/is your role model or mentor?

"Sometimes we don't want to admit how much we are like one of our parents, but I think that I'm much more like my mother than I would have cared to admit at a younger age. Now, I'm so very thankful that I had her as a role model. She was very active in the communities in which we lived and had the courage to live by her convictions."



Yvonne Sanchez

Yvonne Sanchez is an insurance agent and financial advisor with Rio Grande Financial Network, a business she established with her mother, Grace, in Los Lunas.

She holds a bachelor's degree from New Mexico State University, and is a member of the University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus' Development board of directors.

He parents are the late Apolonio and Grace Sanchez.

How do you stay motivated and inspired as a leader?

"It can be very challenging, but when you see that you have helped someone out to achieve their goals it is so motivating. Sometimes you need to shake

things up a little and not get mundane in your work."

Who was/is your role model or mentor?

"My role models were my parents, Apolonio and Grace Sanchez. They taught me to always lend a hand and help others. They encouraged me and supported me in anything I took on.

"With every board position I served on, they were my biggest supporters. They taught me to always work hard but to help out your friends and community."

Do you enjoy your job as much today as when you started?

"I do enjoy it in a different way. I have been in this business for 30 years and have been in business in Valencia County for 25 years, and I look back at how business has grown and the impact we have had on our community."

"I think I have more flexibility now with my schedule and am learning to enjoy myself. In the beginning, it was lots of long hours and working on weekends, too."

"When my mom passed away over a year ago, it was difficult not having her to run ideas by. I would have and still have people and clients tell me what an impact she had on them. She taught me that in business and life that sometimes we just need to sit and listen to our customers and be there for them."

"I think that sense of pride in the business that we built and the relationships we built give me so much joy."

Have you had any life-changing experiences that led you to where you are today?

"I think just being two women who started their own business was life-changing. We had to build up our business from scratch. In the beginning, we did everything from going door to door, making cold-calls, cleaning our own office and volunteering in the community."

What is one of your accomplishments that you are most proud of?

"Building a business with my mom that I am so proud of. It has not only been about building up a business and being successful at it, but also to make a difference in our community."

"The last 10 years, we started contributing to an endowment at UNM-VC for scholarships. I am so proud that since 2018, we have given out several scholarships in the name of my parents."

How do you define success in life?

"I would define it by the quality of people that I am surrounded by. I am blessed with an amazing niece and nephew, cousins, friends and aunties who have supported me through good and bad times."

Flores

from PAGE 3

something quite awesome and rewarding. I always tell seniors, 'You need to be preparing for what life holds for you. You have come so far with close to 13 years of school and the world awaits you. Be ready for that next adventure; you are ready and remember all that you have learned along the way.'"

Do you enjoy your job as much today as when you started?

"Absolutely, yes! That is why I am not ready to retire quite yet. I find such joy working with students, getting to know them, hearing their life stories, being in amazement of what they have gone through in life and watching them soar through the challenges of high school."

If you could say one thing to your younger self or give them one piece of advice what would it be?

"Take your time in life, slow down, breathe, believe in yourself, always count your blessings and like my mama tells me ... always turn a negative into a positive. There is a reason for everything. And remember to always turn to God in thanksgiving and prayer."



Pauline Vallejos



Pauline Vallejos is the supervisor of security for Belen Consolidated Schools, and is a Title 9 investigator. She is also the head BHS cheer coach and an assistant powerlifting coach.

She is the owner and operator of Elite Muscle and Fitness in Belen, and is a licensed personal trainer.

She is a graduate of Albuquerque Public Schools, and has some secondary education and trade school certifications.

Pauline is married to her husband, Mario Vallejos, and they have four adult children, three daughters and one son; three sons-in-law and one daughter-in-law, nine grandchildren (with another on the way), and one great-grandchild.

Vallejos serves on the Juvenile Justice Committee, is a member of the National Federation of High School Sports, is ISSA-member certified and a bodybuilding competitor/athlete with NPC.

How do you balance being a coach and a business owner?

"Coaching is a lifestyle and not work as I enjoy working with student athletes. One advantage is owning a gym and coaching athletics go hand in hand and I enjoy it so it's not a job to me. Working with the youth in my job and on the sports field and finally seeing them in my gym finding healthy lifestyle makes it worth it."

What is one of your accomplishments that you are most proud of?

"Knowing that all of my adult children are successfully raising their children on the foundation of God."

Have you had any life-changing experiences that led you to where you are today?

"So, I have been super blessed in my life. Every day that I getup, I just try to live each day better than yesterday. If I could say there was something particular that got me to where I am now, not really. Just knowing that I've been gifted in life and the will to love and give back is enough for me."

What motivates your community involvement

and being an active presence in the community?

"I love people. I'm originally from Albuquerque and moved here more than 25 years ago and raised my kids here. My husband and I have owned multiple businesses and have always been involved.

"The biggest motivation that I have found is working with kids and young adults. When you see a child succeed on the field or in life, just knowing that you had an influence on that person is all the motivation I need."

If you could say one thing to your younger self or give them one piece of advice what would it be?

"Pursue your education to the fullest. Work hard at what makes you happy and never hold back on your dreams. Take care of your body as it is 10 times harder to reach your goals as you get older."

What goal(s) are you working toward right now?

"At work, to continue to work hard at maintaining safety and security at Belen Schools.

"As a coach, I want to change the culture of Belen Cheer and help them be recognized as athletes and to win state championships and achieve academic goals in life.

"In business, I want to continue to help my clients achieve their fitness goals as I pursue mine.

"And continue to be the best I can at being a wife, mom, grandmother and a servant of God."

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Denise Vigil



Denise Vigil was first elected sheriff in 2018, and is currently serving her second term in office.

She is a high school graduate, and completed some college courses. She has two sons, Anthony and Paul; two grandchildren, Peyton and Christian; daughter-in-law, Anastasia; and mother, Kathy.

Vigil is the council chairwoman for the New Mexico Sheriff's Professional Standards Accreditation Council, a member of New Mexico Sheriff's Association, and a member of the Western States Sheriffs Association.

How do you achieve work-life balance?

"Work life balance has been difficult, while I do take time for myself I am on call 24/7. I really do not know how to ignore a phone call from my staff or the public. I still find I am able to continue whatever I am doing in my personal time and take care of issues which may arise.

"I contribute this to my amazing staff, we all know we have to work as a team for this agency to keep

moving forward, and the minor disruptions usually don't take away from enjoying our time away from the office."

What is the biggest challenge and most rewarding aspect of your profession?

"The biggest challenge is keeping up with the constant financial needs to keep deputies. We are so close to the metro area, we end up losing good, trained deputies to larger agencies.

The most rewarding lately has been being able to hire enough deputies to offer specialized units. We have a traffic unit, our SWAT team is constantly growing, we also opened up a new position in the detective division and dedicated one to specifically work on sex offenders. We also added a K-9 to our staff, and will soon be looking into putting our CRIT together again.

"The reward in the end is watching these deputies excited to be part of these units and eager to learn more of what this career has to offer. When you are able to create these units in a mid size agency it's an accomplishment and that in itself is the reward."

What advice do you have for aspiring women looking to advance their careers?

"My advice for women looking to advance in this career, I commend them for wanting to be part of this at all. History has always presented this as a 'man's job,' but I do believe we have shown ourselves to be essential to the career.

"I would say to any woman stay strong and motivated in your path. Let your moral compass guide and keep your integrity at the forefront, with that you can achieve anything."

How do you stay motivated and inspired as a leader?

"My motivation is watching the growth of the agency, the deputies who are excited to start their career and ultimately knowing I am part of this. My command staff contributed to my inspiration as a leader; I rely heavily on them to keep the wheels turning and see their interest and continued motivation to meet the goals of shaping a respected agency.

"After I officially retire, I will have 25 years of the best career on earth, my inspiration is having walked all paths (patrol, detective, detective sergeant and, finally, sheriff) to where I currently am right now."

If you could say one thing to your younger self or give them one piece of advice what would it be?

"I would have said, 'I wish I would have broken out of my shell a lot sooner, had more confidence in myself to start this career when I was younger.'"

What legacy do you want to leave?

"What I want to leave behind is the deputies know I have always had their best interest at heart. I want them to know their voice and opinions do matter as in the past we didn't have those options in my early career.

"I also want the public to know I took this position they elected me to do seriously and, although I am not perfect, I feel I have done my job the best I could and I hope we will be looked at as making a positive impact.

"I would love for my grandkids to brag a little about their nana one day but, in all seriousness, I remain humble enough to know that no one can do this alone, as I have always said it takes a team to make this work, so my legacy would be 'I lead a great team.'"

WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

(Editor's Note: For the contact information of the listed women-owned businesses, visit news-bulletin.com.)

AmAble Therapies, Inc.

Ramona Armendariz
& Vanessa Gutierrez

Anew boutique

Margie Rende

Belen Goju Ryu Karate

Cindy Long

Black Rabbit Farm Apothecary

Reana Kim

Blessed & Bound Permanent Jewelry

Natasha Valencia

Blue Corn Landscape and Grounds Maintenance

Bailley Lujan

Busybee's Sanitation

Melissa Gabaldon

Cleans Queens

Carolyn Romero & Reeanna

Dolly's Performance Horses

Dolly Braught Wallace

H2 Academic Solutions

Holly Chavez
& Noelle Chavez

H & I Insurance, LLC

Sheri Ulibarri RSSA, CSA

La Vida Felicidad

Adria Jaramillo

MAD Macarons LLC

Pamela Commins

MVD Presto

Latayah York

Nicole Bradshaw Photography

Nicole Bradshaw

Ordinarily Beautiful Cotton Candy

Deborah Padilla

Realty One of New Mexico

Jennifer Eylicio

SewWhat?!

Jean Coon

Small Steps Visitation LLC

Caroline Spicher
& Tasa Stromei

The Balloon Factory of NM

Charity Wilson

The Rasband Home Team

Jessica Rasband

Transportation Safety Foundation

Latayah York

Valencia Animal Clinic

Dr. Brenda L. Mack, DMV

Valencia Flour Mill, Ltd.

Kathy Cordova

Wilma's Wearable Art Shoppe & Community Studio

Wilma Woollard

YCG & RVM, Inc., d/b/a Independent Court Reporters

Yvonne C. Gonzales,
Court Reporter

Amelia Vogel



Amelia Vogel is the farm manager at Rocket Punch Farm in Belen, and a local food advocate for Farm to You by Bomvida. She holds a bachelor of science degree in applied biology from Georgia Tech and a master of public health degree in biostatistics from Georgia Southern University.

Amelia and her husband, Jason Schilberg, live in Belen with their two cats, Sven and Stimp. Her parents and sister, Natalie, live in

Albuquerque.

She is a New Mexico Soil Health champion,

which is part of the National Soil Health Champions Network.

If you could say one thing to your younger self or give them one piece of advice what would it be?

“Don’t listen to anyone who tells you anything other than ‘follow your passion.’ I wasted a lot of time doing what other people expected of me, trying to ‘fit in,’ and making myself miserable when I should have listened to my inner voice first.”

How do you define success in life?

“My success in life is convincing New Mexicans to eat more leafy greens. Put some Swiss chard in your enchiladas, some collards in your green chile stew. It’s delicious, I promise.”

What advice do you have for aspiring women looking to advance their careers?

“I walked away from the highest paying job of my career because of workplace sexual harassment. Yes, I reported it and, no, he did not face consequences. So, I don’t have any advice about career advancement, but I can tell you all about what it’s like to start over.”

How do you achieve work-life balance?

“(Since I have a 50 word limit per answer, I’m

tempted to just write “ha!” 50 times.) I’m very fortunate that my business partner, my life partner and my favorite human are all wrapped up in the same package — my doting husband, Jason. We balance each other.”

What made you decide to pursue the career path you’re currently on?

“I started farming in order to grow the foods I’d only ever read about in cookbooks. I practice regenerative agriculture because I believe in working in collaboration with nature, not fighting against her. I focus on soil health because the soil ecosystem is what makes all life above ground possible.”

What goal(s) are you working toward now?

“Making Farm To You by Bomvida the best grocery store in Valencia County and Albuquerque.

“Introducing exciting new foods to central New Mexico that no one believes will grow here (watch and find out!)

“Taking our first vacation in more than five years this autumn.”

Archuleta

from PAGE 2

“My grandmother is my role model. She came to the U.S. alone and built a beautiful life for her family from nothing. Professionally, I’ve been lucky to learn from many amazing women in business and economic development circles who’ve supported and inspired me in my journey.”

Esquibel

from PAGE 2

ing at the fire department and the assistant chief — EMS position became available. After prayer and many conversations, I put in for the position and was blessed to have been given this opportunity.”

What made you decide to pursue the career path you’re currently on?

“I had always wanted to be a paramedic when I was little. I made changes due to people telling me that it was a thankless job and I wouldn’t make money, but in the end, God brought me back to this path and I am so grateful for it.”

If you could say one thing to your younger self or give them one piece of

Ludwig

from PAGE 7

ments but about creating positive change in my community. True success comes from using my skills to uplift others while staying true to my values of kindness, equity and perseverance.”

advice what would it be?

“Trust in God. He’s got a plan, but you must have faith in Him.”

What is the best advice you received and from whom?

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4: 6-7 NKJV

“This small bit of advice is from the Bible. It something I read years ago, and does come up regularly, due to the stresses of the job. It’s a great reminder to have faith in God and that he’s in control of everything and will help me through the toughest times, as well as the wonderful times.”

MVD Presto

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