



NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

FROM THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION VICE-CHAIR VALERIE ESPINOZA (DISTRICT 3)

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NEWS RELEASE

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Valerie Espinoza Named 2014 ABQ Business First Woman of Influence

SANTA FE, N.M. — Public Regulation Commission Vice-Chair Valerie Espinoza (District 3) has been named one of *Albuquerque Business First's* top 40 “Women of Influence” in New Mexico for 2014.

Espinoza was selected for the honor in the government and contracting category. More than 400 nominees were considered.

According to the publication, the designation is given each year to women across the Land of Enchantment who have shown they are “experts in the art of transforming challenges into opportunities.” Judges evaluated candidates on things like professional achievement and community involvement.

“I am truly honored to have been selected as one of this state’s primary women of influence and to be recognized for my dedication to public service,” Espinoza said. “My fellow honorees are hard-working, innovative and inspiring women from industries around the state and I feel privileged to be among their company.”

Espinoza’s interests in government and public issues stretch far and wide. In 2013, she chaired a wildfire task force established to address issues related to power line easements in New Mexico’s drought-stricken forests. Residents of Taos, Pecos and Santa Fe, alongside utilities and cooperatives, federal, state and local government officials from agencies like the Bernalillo County Fire Department, the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the New Mexico Environment Department, joined forces to discuss creating a formal plan of action to lessen the fire-related dangers of power lines in heavily-forested areas of the state.

Award winners will be recognized at a formal ceremony March 6 in Albuquerque.

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