



2019 NMSBA Recognition Award Recipients

24 Year Service Award

Bill Noland – House Board of Education



Bill Noland was first elected to the House Board of Education in 1979 and served two terms through 1987. He returned to board service in 2001 and continues to serve. It should be noted the community of House recognized Bills outstanding leadership and commitment and recently elected him to a remarkable seventh term on the House Board of Education, Bill has served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Member of the local board. Bill takes his responsibilities on the board very seriously and has dedicated hundreds of hours of his time to help improve educational opportunities for his students. In addition to his work on the school board Bill works for the United States Postal Service, operates his farm and ranch and considers his highest achievement as having three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Bill has been a very active member of NMSBA, serving on the Board of Directors. He is a true public servant and has made school board service a major part of his life.

Hall of Fame Award

Ron Singleton – Carlsbad Board of Education



Ron Singleton has enjoyed a very successful and distinguished school board career since being appointed to the Carlsbad board in 2008. At the local level he served as Board President, Vice President and Secretary. At the Region level he served as Region VI President and Vice-President At the state level he served as NMSBA Vice President, NMSBA President Elect and in 2016 served as NMSBA President and Chair of the Executive Board. Ron has also served as Past President for two terms and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2013. Ron has served on the Western Region Nominating Committee, National Nominating Committee, National Policies and Resolutions Committee and was a voting delegate to the National Delegate Assembly for three years. Ron has earned all NMSBA's training awards, in 2015 received Master Board Member Certification and in 2016 was voted NMSBA Board Member of the Year. Ron has been a true ambassador for public schools and NMSBA and is an outstanding addition to the Hall of Fame.

Board Member of the Year

Olivia Calabaza – Bernalillo Board of Education



Since her election to the Bernalillo Board of Education in 2009, Olivia Calabaza has provided exemplary service to students, staff, parents and community. Olivia has served as Board President, Vice Present and Secretary of the Bernalillo Board and serves on the finance, audit and calendar committees. She currently serves as Region IV President, NMSBA Vice President, member of the Executive Board and Board of Directors. Olivia also serves as a delegate to the National School Boards Association Delegate Assembly. She has received all of NMSBA's training awards including the Exemplary Award for seven consecutive years. Ms. Calabaza strives to promote equity in education and has high expectations for the district and herself. She continually thinks outside the box and welcomes innovative and creative ideas to problem solving. She puts students and staff first when making decisions strives to move the School Board forward. In his letter of nomination Superintendent Keith Cowan says he simply cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition than Olivia Calabaza.



2019 NMSBA Recognition Award Recipients

Board of Education of the Year

Small District: Zuni Board of Education



The Zuni Board of Education members are President Stephanie Vicente, Vice President Willard Zunie, Secretary Masika Sweewyne, and members Anthony Lucio and Jerome Haskie. In his letter of nomination Superintendent Daniel Benavidez praised the board of education for maintaining consistency in local school board governance and for their commitment to providing quality education opportunities for the children of the community of Zuni. The board of education takes their responsibilities very serious, establishing a vision and goals for the district, creating district

policies, and overseeing the school district budget, thus allowing the superintendent to serve as the chief education leader. The board has been extremely responsive to students, parents and community members and have implemented many initiatives that have had a positive impact on the education program. The Zuni board is active at the local, region, state and national levels taking advantage of quality opportunities to expand their knowledge and improve their governance skills. They have received advanced training awards and they serve their constituency with no promise of reward or recognition. They serve only to ensure that their students get the very best education possible. They are a shining example of what a rural and all Native American school board can accomplish when they all work together. The Zuni Board of Education is truly deserving of this award.

Large District: Bernalillo Board of Education



The Bernalillo Board of Education members include President Olivia Calabaza, Vice President Isaac Herrera, Secretary Jodilynn Ortiz, and members Ramona “Monie” Salazar and Vincent Montoya. The board works collectively as one to make a positive impact in our schools and community. Over the last two years the impact has been noticed by staff, parents and community. It is evident that they all working together to improve the

outcomes for teaching and learning within the school district. The board is very active in region, and national board activities and meetings. Board members are members of the NSBA American Indian Council and Hispanic Caucus. Several board members also attend the National Indian Education Association Conferences as well as NALEO to learn more about best practices and policy. Our members take an active role in examining policy and attending all board meetings. The Board places students as their priority and ensures that equity across the district is in place. They attend events such as plays, open houses, athletic and extracurricular, graduation and countless other events. The Board is also very active in committee work and encourages and promotes reading at all levels. Superintendent Keith Cowan says he is impressed with the level of professionalism the Board demonstrates in and out of meetings. The board has adopted board norms and revisits them during every work session to ensure accountability and continued growth. They have quarterly retreats which focus on board best practices, legislative highlights, policy and community relations. The Bernalillo Board of Education is a shining example of a high functioning board.