



For Immediate Release.

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Nominations Now Open for the 505 Awards
*AED's Inaugural Awards Program Recognizes
Leadership in Economic Development*

(Albuquerque, NM) - Nominations are now open for the inaugural 505 Awards, which recognize individuals and organizations that have made exceptional contributions to economic growth and prosperity in the Albuquerque metro area. The annual awards are presented by Albuquerque Economic Development, Inc. (AED) and the Albuquerque Forward Fund.

"Jobs are critical to our community's growth and vital to its future," said Leean Kravitz, Chair of the Board for the Albuquerque Forward Fund. "The 505 Awards celebrate the people and organizations in our community who are working tirelessly to enhance the region's overall economic strength."

The awards program includes six categories, which are designed to highlight exceptional efforts in community leadership, workforce development and economic development. Two categories will honor the work of organizations and four categories will honor the work of individuals.

The following awards categories will recognize organizations:

- The Community Leadership Award recognizes an organization that has made significant contributions toward achieving and strengthening the community's economy.
- The Excellence in Workforce Development Award recognizes an organization that has played a leading role in workforce readiness, including the implementation of training and educational programs, the sponsorship of scholarship or grant programs, the creation of internship or mentorship programs, or other efforts to develop long-term job skills and career pathways for the region's workforce.

The following awards categories will recognize individuals for their contributions to economic development:

- The Lifetime Leadership Award recognizes an individual whose ongoing commitment to economic development has made a significant and lasting impact on the Albuquerque metro area.



- The Advocate of the Year Award recognizes a business leader who has made a measurable difference in the economic development arena during the past year by investing in a project(s) that have created or will create jobs in the Albuquerque metro area.
- The Public Service Leadership Award recognizes a current and former public official or public employee who has served as a committed supporter of economic development efforts over a period of at least three years.
- The Rising Star Award recognizes an emerging leader who is contributing to economic development programs, projects and activities in a significant manner that leads to increased investment in the community and job creation.

Nominations will close on Friday, June 28. Nominees will be contacted and asked to submit additional information by Friday, July 26. To access the online nomination form, visit www.abqforwardfund.org/505-awards.

A selection committee organized by the Albuquerque Forward Fund will review all nominations and make final award decisions. Award winners will be notified by Friday, Sept. 6, and recognized at a special awards luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 5. More information about the awards luncheon will be available later this summer.

For more information about the awards, please visit the Albuquerque Forward Fund website at www.abqforwardfund.org/505-awards.

About Albuquerque Forward Fund

The Albuquerque Forward Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization that devotes its time and resources to philanthropic activities and charitable programs that help generate jobs in the Albuquerque metro area. The Forward Fund educates employers and connects them to important resources to help them expand; conducts and publishes research on the region's workforce, employment data, industry trends and economic outlook; and supports the mission of Albuquerque Economic Development, Inc. to attract new employers to the area, help existing employers grow, generate jobs and expand the economy. For more information about the Albuquerque Forward Fund, visit www.abqforwardfund.org.

About Albuquerque Economic Development, Inc.

AED is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to recruit business and industry, help local companies grow and generate quality job opportunities throughout the Albuquerque metro area. AED provides confidential assistance to businesses considering the area for expansion and new investment. Since its creation in 1960, AED has recruited more than 250 companies and 31,000 jobs to the Albuquerque metro area. AED also provides retention and expansion assistance to existing industry. For more information about AED, visit www.abq.org.