



**For Immediate Release.**

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## **Nominations Now Open for the Second Annual 505 Awards**

### *AED's Awards Program Recognizes Leadership in Economic Development*

(Albuquerque, NM) - Nominations are now open for the annual 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.

"The 505 Awards are a celebration of the hard work, collaboration and vision that the Albuquerque metro area has demonstrated for decades," said Leean Kravitz, Chair of the Board for the Albuquerque Forward Fund. "Now, more than ever, we hope the awards program will uplift our community and inspire people and organizations to keep rising to the challenge of finding solutions to pressing issues."

The awards program includes seven categories, which are designed to highlight exceptional efforts in community leadership, workforce development and economic development. Three 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 **Small Business Champion Award** recognizes a private organization with 100 employees or less that has demonstrated its commitment to its employees, clients and the Albuquerque area community.

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, August 14**. Nominees will be contacted **by August 18** and asked to submit additional information by **Friday, September 11**. To access the online nomination form, visit [www.abqforwardfund.org/505-awards](http://www.abqforwardfund.org/505-awards) and find the “Click Here to Nominate” button.

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, September 25**, and recognized at a special virtual event on **Thursday, November 12**. More information about the event 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.abq.org).