



NEWS RELEASE

November 7, 2022

Contact: Joanie Griffin, Sunny505, 505-261-4444, jgriffin@sunny505.com

Rio Grande Community Development Corporation to Receive Community Leadership Award at the 505 Awards

Recognizes outstanding leadership in economic development in the region, to be awarded at the Nov. 17 AREA Annual Dinner at Sandia Resort

Albuquerque, NM – Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance has announced the honorees for the fourth annual 505 Awards, which recognize organizations and individuals that are making exceptional contributions to economic growth and prosperity in the greater Albuquerque region, resulting in improvements to its overall economic strength and competitive position.

The Community Leadership Award recognizes an organization that has made significant contributions toward strengthening the community's economy. The organization may be public or private; must have an established operation with employees in the Albuquerque metro area; and must describe and quantify how the organization has contributed to economic development in the region through leadership, financial support, local investments, hiring, training, or related activities.

This year's deserving organization is Rio Grande Community Development Corporation.

Rio Grande Community Development Corporation, and its programs, South Valley Economic Development Center, and Delicious NM, have been helping move its mission centered on equity and inclusion. They recognize that entrepreneurs of color traditionally have had far less access to funding, business support services, and networks to help them build sustainable businesses. RGDCDC aims to change this ecosystem throughout the metropolitan area by supporting businesses and providing affordable, accessible services. Entrepreneurship can be a path out of poverty for these communities, and their aim is to help that process become more inclusive by executing change from within.

"People have the power and vision to change lives and communities. We're here to help." says Josue Olivares, Executive Director of the Rio Grande Community Development Corporation, winner of AREA's 2022 Community Leadership Award. "By continuing to work collaboratively, implementing community generated solutions here in the South Valley and across the state of New Mexico the RGDCDC is connecting people in the business, food and farming sectors with the support and tools they need to realize the promise of a better future of New Mexico, together"

This year's Community Leadership Award is sponsored by Enterprise Bank & Trust.



“With this award, we strive to recognize a like-minded community leader, working to improve the community it serves and strengthen the local Albuquerque economy,” says Jessica Kuhn, SVP, Relationship Manager Team Lead at Enterprise. “RGCDC has established itself as a trusted community hub that facilitates social and economic entrepreneurship, and we’re thrilled to recognize the organization’s important and innovative work.”

The awards will be bestowed in person at AREA’s signature event, the Annual Dinner and 505 Awards which will take place November 17 from 5 — 9 p.m. at Sandia Resort. This year’s theme is “Taking Flight” — a nod to the significant industry presence and opportunity for the region in aerospace and defense but also a recognition that AREA’s strategic plan and shift to a more regionally inclusive approach to economic development is taking flight and gaining momentum as well.

To attend the 2022 Annual Dinner and 505 Awards, where honorees will be recognized, or for more information on awards categories, eligibility requirements or judging criteria, visit www.abq.org/505Awards/.

###

About AREA

The Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is leads and executes strategies designed to grow and diversify the economic base of the greater Albuquerque region, creating a prosperous, diverse and inclusive economy and elevating the standard of living for all. AREA provides confidential assistance to businesses considering the area for expansion and new investment. Since its creation in 1960, AREA has recruited more than 250 companies and more than 35,000 jobs to the Albuquerque metro area. AREA also provides retention and expansion assistance to existing industry. For more information, visit ABQ.org.

###