



NEWS RELEASE

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Sandoval County Manager Wayne Johnson to Receive Public Service Leadership Award at AREA 505 Awards and Annual Dinner

The 505 Awards are bestowed by the Albuquerque Economic Alliance and recognize 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 Public Service Leadership Award recognizes a current or 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 2022 honoree, Wayne Johnson, has quite the track record of exemplary service in this arena. He was named County Manager for Sandoval County in June of 2020, but at that time he had already served in government as a Bernalillo County Commissioner, State Auditor, and Torrance County Manager.

Having served on both the elected and executive sides of county government, Johnson understands the unique relationship the County Manager has when it comes to working with the Board of County Commissioners. Currently, Johnson is a member of the Kirtland Air Force Base Joint Land Use Committee and serves on the Executive Board of the Mid Region Council of Governments. In addition, he was an active and engaged partner in the development and execution of the AREA 1.0 Strategic Plan and understands the criticality of regional alignment for the advancement of economic development.

"I have long believed that what's good for one community in the metro area is good for all of our communities and ultimately for New Mexico. Whether it's Intel in Sandoval County, Netflix in Albuquerque, Amazon in Bernalillo County, or Facebook in Los Lunas, partnerships that span the region as well as public and private sectors, lead directly to economic success," says Wayne Johnson.

This award is sponsored by Presbyterian. "It's a privilege to recognize the efforts of a public servant like Wayne Johnson. Through his leadership, Mr. Johnson is strengthening the partnership between the public and private sector. Presbyterian is committed to serving New Mexico and contributing to positive economic growth in our state alongside great leaders like



Mr. Johnson,” commented Brian Brown, Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Presbyterian. “Today, we honor Mr. Johnson’s contributions and know that he will continue to make an impact in our community.”

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/.

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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.

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