



NEWS RELEASE

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Elisha Saavedra-Torres Recognized as 2022 Rising Star for Economic Development by AREA

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 Rising Star Award recognizes an emerging leader who is contributing to economic development programs, projects and activities in a significant manner that leads to increasing investment in the community and job creation. Elisha Saavedra-Torres, Economic Development Manager for PNM, does just that every day. In fact, she has been called a “golden guru” by economic development colleagues around the entire region. She has been instrumental in numerous projects creating hundreds of jobs in the region – one in particular is the recent announcement by Manna Capital Partners which will be creating up to 950 new jobs in the Las Lunas community at buildout. She is known for representing PNM and the greater Albuquerque community in with grace, expertise, and the friendliest and an open demeanor in every single meeting.

“It is an amazing honor to be recognized in this way. Economic Development is truly a team sport and I could not be successful in this role without the amazing support of my PNM team and leadership as well as my incredible economic development partners who work tirelessly to help our community grow and thrive,” comments Elisha Saavedra-Torres.

This award is sponsored by Deloitte. “Deloitte is honored to sponsor the 2022 Rising Star award. New Mexico’s future relies upon the hard work, talent, and creativity of professionals just like Elisha and we could not be more thankful for her tireless efforts on behalf of our community,” says Scott Malm, Account Leader at Deloitte.

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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