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Banking & Financial Services

New Mexico Bank and Trust announces new president and CEO



Image: Sacred Sage Photography

Melanie Velasquez joined New Mexico Bank and Trust in 2023 and has been named its new president and CEO.

JULIE HAMLIN



By **Brody Foster** – Reporter, Albuquerque Business First
Jan 9, 2025



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New Mexico Bank and Trust announced on Jan. 9 that Melanie Velasquez will be the bank's new president and CEO.

“It’s a tremendous opportunity we have such a great team here at New Mexico Bank and Trust,” Velasquez said. “I’m invested in this community, and I want to be a part of economic growth and to see our businesses thrive.”

Velasquez joined New Mexico Bank and Trust as Director of Business Development in 2023, then was promoted to Executive Vice President and Head of Commercial Banking in August of 2024. She officially took the role of president and CEO on Jan. 1, 2025.

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Greg Leyendecker co-founded NMBT in 1998 and served as president and CEO until he stepped down in January 2024 to transition to CEO Emeritus, a position he will retain.

Andres Garcia originally replaced Leyendecker, but Garcia left NMBT in July 2024.

“Our vision was to build a bank that truly understands and serves the needs of New Mexico communities,” Leyendecker said in a news release. “Melanie embodies that vision with her commitment to excellence and passion for making a difference in people’s lives.”

Velasquez is a native New Mexican and graduated from the [University of New Mexico](#). She is also board president for S.A.F.E. House, a domestic violence shelter, and second vice chair for the Board of Trustees of the National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation.

NMBT has 21 locations across the state of New Mexico and specializes in commercial lending and treasury management services.

The bank is a division of Heartland Financial USA Inc., a Denver-based bank holding company. UMB Financial Corp.'s acquired Heartland Financial USA Inc. in April of 2024, the deal is expected to be completed in first-quarter of this year.

“One of the things that New Mexico Bank and Trust is founded on is having integrity and leading with honesty, that’s something that will never be compromised and we’ll continue to keep those values strong,” Velasquez said.

T H E L I S T

New Mexico Banks

Local deposit volume

Rank	Prior Rank	Business name
1	1	Wells Fargo Bank N.A.
2	2	Bank of America N.A.
3	3	U.S. Bank N.A.
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