



NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

Alisha Tafoya Lucero, Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NMCD Celebrates graduation of 11 inmates

Projections indicate the department will surpass FY23 High School Equivalency numbers

LOS LUNAS - The New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) is proud to announce the graduation of nine adult education graduates and two associate degree graduates at the Central New Mexico Correctional Facility (CNMCF). The two associate degrees were received from Mesalands Community College and the International Christian College and Seminary.

NMCD's Reentry Division projects the final FY24 graduation totals will exceed those of FY23, where the department proudly had the highest number of High School Equivalency (HSE) completers of any adult education program in the state.

The current totals for FY24 are as follows:

- High School Equivalency (HSE) completions: 152
- Associate degree: 7
- Bachelor's degree: 5
- Master of Business Administration (MBA): 1

"I am extremely proud of my staff and their students," said Corrections Department Cabinet Secretary **Alisha Tafoya Lucero**. "Our ultimate goal, with all of our programming, is to reduce recidivism and provide incarcerated individuals with the tools they need for a brighter future."

The remarkable educational achievements are a direct result of the successful partnership between NMCD and the New Mexico Higher Education Department's (NMHED) Adult Education Division.

"I am honored to congratulate the college and high school equivalency graduates from the Central New Mexico Correctional Facility, and I commend our partners at the New Mexico Corrections Department for once again graduating a record number of students. This achievement is a testament to the power of education within our correctional system and demonstrates the resilience and determination of these students. New Mexico remains committed to providing education for all, no matter the circumstances," said Higher Education Secretary **Stephanie M. Rodriguez**.

Keynote speaker

Today's graduation ceremony included a message from keynote speaker, Angel Garcia, the City of Albuquerque's Violence Intervention Program (V.I.P.) Social Services Program Manager. Garcia's

journey is a testament to the power of personal transformation and the potential for positive change. As a four-time convicted felon, he spent a significant portion of his adult life in in prison. However, through his determination and a strong desire to make a difference, Garcia successfully turned his life around and is now dedicated to serving the community.