



# NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

Alisha Tafoya Lucero, Cabinet Secretary

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Date: November 17, 2023

## **New Mexico Corrections Department Celebrates Largest Corrections Officer Graduation of 2023**

*Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham attends graduation ceremony in Santa Fe*

Santa Fe - The New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) is proud to announce its largest graduation of corrections officers of the year. The graduation is comprised of 31 correctional officer cadets and 16 correctional officer specialists. Together, the classes produce 47 graduates and honorary correctional officer, 20-year-old William Archuleta, who tragically lost his life in a vehicle crash on Halloween while driving home from training.

“As the Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Corrections Department, I am incredibly proud to witness your graduation and to acknowledge the tremendous obstacles you have overcome throughout your journey.” **said NMCD Cabinet Secretary Alisha Tafoya Lucero** “Each of you has faced trials and tribulations that have tested your determination and strength. Despite challenges, you pushed through, persevered, and demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the department. Your ability to rise above adversity is inspiring, and it serves as a testament to your character.”



Caption: Correctional officer cadets and the empty chair for honorary correctional officer William Archuleta)

The graduation ceremony, held earlier today, marks a significant milestone for both NMCD and the state as a whole. NMCD facilities across the state have worked tirelessly to recruit a diverse group of professionals who are dedicated to upholding public safety, while maintaining safety and security within the state's correctional system.

The event was attended by distinguished guests, including Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, NMCD Cabinet Secretary Alisha Tafoya Lucero, department leadership, family members and friends of the graduating classes. The ceremony showcased the graduates' remarkable achievements and celebrated their successful completion of intensive training programs, which encompassed a wide range of topics from de-escalation and communication techniques, to use of force, and defensive tactics. The addition of these highly trained corrections officers to the department's workforce will further enable NMCD to maintain safe and secure environments for staff, inmates, and surrounding communities.

The New Mexico Corrections Training Academy (NMCTA) is responsible for conducting basic and advanced training for custody and non-custody staff. NMCTA was created in 1981 and was the first corrections training academy in the nation.



Caption: Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham delivering a message at the graduation.



Caption: Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and NMCD Cabinet Secretary Alisha Tafoya Lucero presenting certificates to the graduates.

*The New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) is one of the largest State Departments in New Mexico. The department staff and volunteers are fully committed to integrating programs in its state-owned facilities for rehabilitation. It is through programs, like educational certificates, that the department aims to reduce the risk of recidivism and enhance public safety in communities. For more information, visit [cd.nm.gov](http://cd.nm.gov) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter at @NMCDPIO.*