



# NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

Alisha Tafoya Lucero, Cabinet Secretary

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **NMCD hits new heights in high school equivalency goals**

*HSE credentials continue to climb*

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Corrections Department not only surpassed the Legislative Finance Committee’s target for high school equivalency graduates for the second consecutive year in Fiscal Year 2024 but also continues to lead the state compared to other adult education programs.

“Educational achievements lead to more gainful employment opportunities and better financial outcomes for our communities,” said **NMCD Cabinet Secretary Alisha Tafoya Lucero**. “As our department moves forward, we remain committed on increasing access to education and supporting individuals on their journey toward successful reintegration.”

### **Fiscal Year 2024**

- NMCD awarded 236 HSE credentials.
- LFC target: 145

### **Fiscal Year 2023**

- NMCD awarded 184 HSE credentials, a year-over-year increase of 22 percent.

The successful graduation rates are attributed to the leadership of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, Corrections Cabinet Secretary Alisha Tafoya Lucero, and the NMCD Reentry Division, along with the collaborative support from the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED).

"The New Mexico Higher Education Department believes in uplifting every single kind of student, no matter their age, background or any other factor," said **Higher Education Secretary Stephanie M. Rodriguez**. "We will continue to create more opportunities for more New Mexicans seeking to achieve their educational aspirations and build productive careers, and we applaud the hard work of these graduates."

In addition to the exciting achievements in Fiscal Year 2024, NMCD awarded 47 post-secondary degrees and certificates, including 21 associate degrees, three bachelor's degrees, and 23 vocational certificates.

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*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 facilities for rehabilitation. It is through programs and services the department aims to improve outcomes for offenders and enhance public safety in communities. For more information, visit [cd.nm.gov](http://cd.nm.gov) or follow NMCD on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) at @NMCDPIO.*