

Kendal Chavez

• Santa Fe, NM 87505 •

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies

San Francisco State University

Graduated May 2011

San Francisco, CA

Master of Public Administration (Concentration: Public Policy)

University of New Mexico

Graduating May 2021

Albuquerque, NM

Professional Experience

New Mexico Public Education Department

Santa Fe, NM

Healthy Schools Coordinator

January 2021 – Present

- Serve as a liaison and technical consultant for schools and school districts working to improve student health and academic achievement through nutrition, physical education, physical activity, and the management of chronic health conditions in schools.
- Research and evaluate a coordinated school health framework through dissemination, training, and policy development efforts that support the linkage between health and academic success in schools and school districts across New Mexico.
- Develop policies and practices that increase students' consumption of fruits and vegetables, physical activity and education opportunities in schools, and capacity of schools to serve the chronic disease conditions of students.
- Manage interagency coalition efforts that support school nutrition and student wellness, including the New Mexico Grown Interagency Task Force and the New Mexico Grown Coalition.
- Oversee management, reporting, and strategy development for the bureau's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention DP18-1801 Healthy Schools Grant.

Nutritionist / Farm to School Specialist

April 2018 – December 2020

- Provided technical assistance and policy guidance in the issue areas of nutrition, wellness, competitive foods, and farm to school to schools and school districts that operate the National School Lunch Program.
- Administered a model for the procurement of local, unprocessed produce for school meals in partnership with Boards of Education, school administration, and Food Service Directors from a ten-district learning cohort.
- Managed the New Mexico Public Education Department's school nutrition training and evaluation strategy.
- Directed a training program that builds the capacity and representation of historically disenfranchised farmers in New Mexico's statewide farm to school initiatives.
- Demonstrated expertise in grant writing, project management, fiscal oversight, and reporting through receipt and management of a United States Department of Agriculture Farm to School Grant and New Mexico Department of Agriculture State Agricultural Development and Promotional Funds Program.
- Developed and implemented an interagency task force to address food access and meal quality issues for the state's adult and child nutrition programs.

Farm to Table

Santa Fe, NM

Farm to School Program Director

October 2015 – March 2018

- Designed and managed a statewide program that worked to increase institutional support for farm to school and student nutrition through school-based professional development for cafeteria staff, teachers, and administrators.
- Chaired the New Mexico Farm to School Alliance, a multi-agency public-private partnership that guides advocacy efforts, investment prioritization, and alignment of strategic initiatives across network partners.
- Directed two Federal grants, including the Center for Disease Control Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) funding for nutrition promotion and physical activity education in Albuquerque's International District, and United States Department of Agriculture Farm to School funding for training efforts aimed to increase fresh fruits and vegetables in New Mexico schools.
- Executed a comprehensive state legislative campaign to increase policy maker support for local purchasing and farm to school educational programs through the development of an annual advocacy day, an annual farm to school awards ceremony, and a community-driven communications strategy.
- Piloted a civic engagement training series that trained young professionals from the dietetics, education, and agricultural sectors to strategically advocate for community needs at the state and local levels.

FoodCorps New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM

Program Coordinator

August 2013 – August 2015

- Administered the FoodCorps New Mexico program, with the primary objective of ensuring AmeriCorps compliance, program evaluation, and management of a ten-person service member cohort.
- Launched a professional development strategy that aligned FoodCorps, Inc. national training priorities with the contextual needs of ten community-based organizations across New Mexico.
- Designed classes, workshops, and presentations on topics of environmental sustainability, food and agricultural systems, and nutrition for K-12 public school children in out-of-school time settings.

Service Member – Kirtland Elementary School

August 2011 – July 2013

- Developed and implemented a nutrition education program that supported student acceptance of updated nutrition standards in alignment with the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.
- Piloted a train-the-trainer professional development series for teachers and cafeteria employees to increase students' knowledge of – and connection with – fresh fruits and vegetables in the classroom and school cafeteria.

Leadership Activities

City of Santa Fe Children and Youth Commission

Santa Fe, NM

Commissioner

March 2021 – Present

- Work in partnership with the City liaison and the Youth and Family Services Division to provide advice on ways to effectively plan, coordinate, and support child and youth efforts in the Santa Fe community.
- Provide oversight of the Children and Youth Fund, including review of applications for the fund and making recommendations.
- Administer funding to local nonprofits to ensure access to services for the children and youth of Santa Fe.

FoodCorps, Inc.

Portland, OR

Board Member

September 2019 – Present

- Advise the CEO and Executive Team on overarching strategy, with a focus on equity, leadership development, and program integrity.
- Oversee and advise on the organization's finances and assets to ensure fiduciary responsibility.
- Accountable for aligning programmatic work with the mission, vision, and purpose of the organization's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council

Santa Fe, NM

Ex-Officio Board Member

September 2019 – Present

- Advise on advocacy efforts with legislative bodies, community-based advocacy groups, agencies, and other stakeholders to advocate for New Mexico's local food system through a lens of social, racial, and gender equity.
- Prioritize legislative efforts that address issues of childhood hunger, agricultural economies, academic outcomes, and community development.

Albuquerque Public Schools Student Health Advisory Council

Albuquerque, NM

Council Member

August 2015 – April 2018

- Supported the development of policy directives that connected Albuquerque Public Schools students to health and wellness while on school grounds.
- Guided drafting of the implementation and assessment plan that operationalized data metrics and defined measures of success.
- Supported presentation of directives to the Albuquerque Public School Board of Education and Public Education Department Coordinated School Health Bureau.

Fellowships and Awards

University of New Mexico

Evaluation Lab Fellow

Albuquerque, NM

August 2020 – Present

University of New Mexico

Summa Academia Fellow

Albuquerque, NM

August 2020 – Present

George Washington University

Food Policy Fellow at the Food Policy Fellowship Institute

Washington, DC

August 2017 – July 2018