



Colleagues, friends and partners of the NM Forum for Youth in Community:

Our organization began when a group of concerned community members, youth, elected officials and philanthropists came together in a series of public forums to discuss the future of New Mexico, the state of its youth, how New Mexico systems engaged its communities and envisioned how things could change for the better.

In the past six years, we have successfully forged partnerships and developed projects to change the way we engage young people, and to support young people and the communities they live in. Through the leadership, hard work and dedication of so many individuals and organizations working together, a number of positive efforts have been established, including the New Mexico Children's Cabinet, the New Mexico Youth Alliance, the Next Generation Fund, the New Mexico Blueprint for Civic Engagement, the VISTA Cadre Project, the Regional Partnership Organizations, Out-of-School Time, Youth Violence Prevention, and the state-wide networks of the Community Service Learning Centers.

Through partnership a great deal has been accomplished, but there is still an immense amount of work to be done to fully support our youth and communities moving to positive outcomes. In order to ensure that our mission can be fulfilled for the long term and that we continue to proactively fund the Forum's work, the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community is embracing the next phase of its development and launching an operating foundation in October -The Forum Foundation.

The Forum Foundation will have three main objectives:

1. Raise funds to ensure the future success of the NM Forum for Youth in Community, its networks and initiatives.
2. Provide technical support to the Forum, its partner institutions and organizations.
3. Launch strategic initiatives in support of building the field of community youth development.

We are very excited about what is possible by having the Foundation work in sync not only with our organization but with yours. We are also pleased to announce that the Forum's current Executive Director, Everett Hill has agreed to lead our efforts in the formation and operation of the Forum Foundation as its founding Executive Director. In this new role, he will continue to work very closely with the NM Forum for Youth in Community and provide transitional support to the next Executive Director of the Forum. We will begin a search for the next Forum Executive Director in the coming weeks.

In the coming months, we will convene strategic planning efforts for the Forum Foundation and be in touch as we have updates and new announcements. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to be contact me.

New Mexico Youth...Expect the Best!

Lowell Overby

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