



Office of the Governor

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 12, 2023**

**Contact:** Caroline Sweeney  
Office of the Governor  
[caroline.sweeney@exec.nm.gov](mailto:caroline.sweeney@exec.nm.gov)

## **State Broadband Director Kelly Schlegel to retire**

SANTA FE – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Tuesday announced the retirement of Office of Broadband Access and Expansion Director Kelly Schlegel. She has served in that role since July 2022.

“Under Kelly’s leadership, hundreds of millions of dollars have gone into broadband projects in communities around the state. Director Schlegel’s work to realize a more connected New Mexico will benefit our state for generations to come,” said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**. “I want to thank Kelly for her fantastic work over the past year and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.”

Director Schlegel recently secured \$675.4 million in federal funding for New Mexico and has set the office of Broadband on track to inject \$1 billion of state and federal money into New Mexico.

"Director Schlegel was the right person to get the Office Broadband Access and Expansion off the ground and set up for success," said **Sen. Michael Padilla**. "There is still a lot to do, but the office is moving in the right direction due to her leadership."

“Through her dedicated leadership and commitment to equity and teamwork, Director Schlegel cultivated the kind of superb staff that lays the foundation for successful implementation of broadband plans for the future,” said **Rep. Joy Garratt**. “She listened to and understood the diverse needs of New Mexico and found solutions to best serve the state.”

She shepherded the state’s billion-dollar strategic plan through several steps including coordination with Internet Service Providers, Tribal Leaders and other government agencies.

"As I step into retirement, I reflect on the immense honor it has been to play a part in the transformative journey into the new digital era across every corner of New Mexico," **said Director Kelly Schlegel**. "I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to every one

of you who has been a part of this incredible journey. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in our collective success. As I step back, I do so with a sense of accomplishment and anticipation, knowing that the seeds we've sown will flourish into a future where every New Mexican can thrive in the digital age. With unwavering confidence, I entrust the future of the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion into capable hands, poised to continue the momentum we've built."

Before her role in public service, Schlegel worked in the software engineering, aerospace and technology fields for more than 40 years, including over three decades with The Boeing Company. She is a graduate of the University of New Mexico and University of Redlands in Redlands, California.

Her last day will be Friday, September 15. OBAE Director of Operations Drew Lovelace will serve as Interim Director.

###