

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Governor appoints two to State Game Commission**

SANTA FE – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Thursday appointed Sabrina Pack and Robert Stump to the State Game Commission.

Sabrina Pack is a lifelong resident of Grant County and has strong ties to ranching in the area. She holds a Doctor of Business Administration with a specialty in Management. She is an executive board member of the New Mexico Broadcasters Association, board member of the Silver City Grant County Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Grant County Prospectors. She is a marketing professional and serves as the Chief Operating Officer of SkyWest Media.

Richard Stump is a lifelong New Mexican whose family has deep roots in the state. He is an avid hunter, fisher and conservationist. He has been a guide for more than 40 years and currently serves as hunting director at Trout Stalker Ranch in Chama. He is also a professional jeweler.

Their terms end in March 2025.

Pack and Stump join Senator Gregory Fulfer, Tirzio Lopez, Sharon Salazar Hickey, Edward Garcia, and Fernando Clemente, Jr.

further their education, and the future of our state depends on having more highly educated residents entering the workforce and providing for their families," said bill sponsor **Sen. Pete Campos**.

In 2022, the Governor signed the Opportunity Scholarship Act, creating the nation's most inclusive tuition-free college program. The program has secured full funding every year since, with \$162 million appropriated for FY25.

A record 42,379 New Mexicans are receiving the scholarship, including over 10,000 students attending college over the summer. Research conducted by the New Mexico Higher Education Department shows that the number of students completing short-term career training certificates increased by 39 percent since the program began, and students receiving the Opportunity Scholarship are eight percent more likely to stay in school than those not receiving it. Most Opportunity Scholarship recipients are Hispanic, identify as women, are under the age of 24 and are eligible to receive federal need-based Pell grants.

According to initial numbers submitted to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for the spring 2024 semester, enrollment increased by nearly 4 percent, higher than the fall semester increase. Overall, college enrollment in New Mexico has increased by more than 7 percent since 2021, the year before the program began.

Established in 1996 as the nation's first tuition-free college program, the Lottery Scholarship continues to cover full tuition for around 10,000 students each year. In 2016, economic downturns in the state led to the amount of tuition covered by the Lottery Scholarship being reduced to an average of 60 percent. Gov. Lujan Grisham restored the Lottery Scholarship to 100 percent of tuition via an infusion of federal funds in 2021.

Data compiled by the New Mexico Higher Education Department shows that students who receive the Lottery Scholarship for six or more semesters are successful, with 86 percent or more receiving a degree or certificate.

For full program and eligibility information on the Opportunity and Lottery Scholarships, visit reachhighernm.com.