

## NMRSA Hugh Prather Excellence in Service Award

The Hugh Prather Excellence in Service Award recognizes outstanding retired school superintendents who demonstrate exceptional leadership in supporting or enhancing educational administration and are making significant contributions to their communities.

This award celebrates those who inspire and support school leaders through innovative practices, promote increased student achievement, and foster a culture of continuous professional development. It honors their dedication to community service, advocacy, and building strong partnerships that benefit education and the broader community.

### **Directions for Nominations**

**1. Eligibility:** The award is open to retired New Mexico School Superintendents who have been retired a minimum of three (3) years, are members in good standing of the NMRSA, and continue to demonstrate exemplary leadership and community involvement.

**2. Nomination Form:** Complete the official nomination form, available by contacting the Secretary of NMRSA Paul Benoit at paul@ces.org.

**3. Supporting Documents:** Include a resume/CV and any relevant documentation or evidence of the nominee's achievements and/or community involvement, volunteer work or service.

**4. Submission:** Submit the completed nomination form and supporting documents via email to **Dr. Lillian Torrez at [ltorrez000@comcast.net](mailto:ltorrez000@comcast.net)** by **May 1, 2026**.

**5. Review Process:** Nominations will be reviewed by a committee of educational professionals and community leaders. Finalists may be contacted for an interview.

**6. Award Ceremony:** The award will be presented at the annual New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders (NMCEL) Conference in July.

### **Information about Dr. Prather:**

*Dr. Prather's life can be summarized as one of "service." For example, Dr. Prather volunteered and served a four-year tour in the United States Navy, and was proud and honored to have been a Vietnam veteran because of that service.*

*Dr. Prather served a 25-year professional career in public education in New Mexico as a teacher and administrator. Following that, Hugh served almost every school district in the state of New Mexico over a 30-year career as a consultant and facilitator and served many of the boards of education statewide in the same capacity.*

*Dr. Prather also served almost 30 years as a volunteer for Presbyterian Healthcare Services in Albuquerque in the capacity of hospice work, pet therapy, and advanced care planning.*

## **Criteria**

**The descriptors are examples of activities that will qualify a nominee.**

### **Educational Leadership**

- Leadership: Initiates or supports creative and effective leadership strategies that promote and improve school or district operations.
- Professional Development: Promotes and participates in continuous learning and development for other leaders and themselves.
- Mentorship: Provides guidance and support to colleagues and staff, fostering a culture of collaboration and growth.

### **Community Involvement**

- Volunteer Work: Actively engages in community service activities and projects.
- Community Partnerships: Initiates or supports strong partnerships with local organizations and stakeholders.
- Outreach Programs: Participates in or supports programs that benefit the wider community.
- Advocacy: Advocates for policies and practices supporting education and community well-being.

### **Personal Characteristics**

- Integrity: Upholds ethical standards and demonstrates a commitment to doing what is right.
- Compassion: Shows genuine care and concern for the well-being of students and the community.
- Dedication: Displays a strong commitment to the mission of education and community service.
- Collaboration: Works effectively with others, building strong relationships and partnerships.