

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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DR. VERONICA C. GARCÍA
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

February 15, 2005

Ron Haugen, Superintendent
Gadsden Independent School District
P. O. Drawer 70
Anthony, NM 88201

Dear Superintendent Haugen:

Thank you for your recent letter informing the Public Education Department that you wish to change the name of Liberty Elementary School to Vado Elementary School which will help the school to identify with their general community.

I approve this name change and I will notify the appropriate staff of this change.

Truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Veronica C. Garcia".

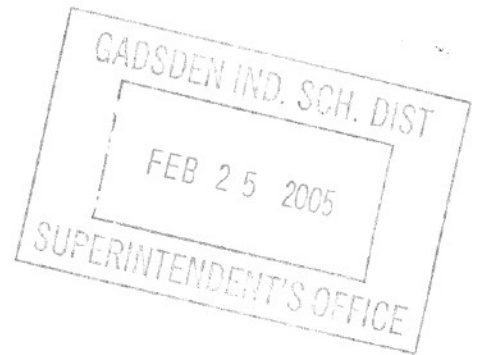
Dr. Veronica C. García
Secretary of Education

VCG:wob

cc: Selected PED Staff



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DR. VERONICA C. GARCÍA
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

February 21, 2005

Mr. Ronald Haugen
Superintendent
Gadsden Independent Schools
P.O. Drawer 70
Anthony, NM 88021

Dear Mr. Haugen:

In preparation for the review and certification of operating budgets for the 2005-2006 school year, a program/budget review schedule has been established. **THE DATE FOR YOUR PHONE REVIEW IS MAY 26, 2005, AT 8:30 A.M.** Your assigned executive budget analyst will notify you if there is any change. Although local board members are encouraged to attend the program/budget review, please be aware that if a quorum of the local board is present, some members will be asked to leave unless the meeting has been duly noticed.

The district's operating budget is due ten (10) working days prior to the scheduled program/budget review date. **PRIOR TO JUNE 20, 2005**, each local school board shall, at a public hearing of which notice has been published, fix the budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Once the local board has approved the budget, the school district must submit both original signature pages no later than June 23, 2005, to your budget analyst.

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned executive budget analyst.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Burrell/mjr".

Steve Burrell, Director
School Budget and Finance Analysis Bureau

SB/mjr

cc: Ms. Laura Garcia, Associate Superintendent of Finance
Luz Vargas, Local Board President
Ms. Leslie Lujan, Executive Budget Analyst

High School Manufacturing Technology Program

Gadsden School District, Dona Ana County, NM

Model Apprenticeship Program to Premiere in Gadsden

Holds Potential for Improving Region's Economy

(Santa Fe, NM)—A unique apprenticeship program will premiere in the Gadsden Independent Schools in January 2005 that holds the potential for improving the region's economy. The "Technical Bridge Apprenticeship Pilot Program" will provide 40-50 students from Gadsden and Santa Teresa High Schools with the training necessary to enter a technical career in manufacturing.

Partners for the project are the Office of Governor Bill Richardson, U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman, the Public Education Department, New Mexico Office of Workforce Training and Development, Gadsden schools, New Mexico State University (NMSU), Dona Ana Branch Community College (DABCC) and Southwest Manufacturing Consortium.

"This program is important because it will fulfill two key roles. Not only will it prepare students for challenging careers, it also will help meet a need within the business community. I am pleased that federal funding is being used to get this program started, and I am seeking additional funding to expand the program next year," Sen. Bingaman said.

Senator Bingaman's office helped create the program by identifying a need within the community, outlining the goals of the program and identifying the source of federal funds that is supporting it. A total of \$140,000 in federal Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education funds is supporting equipment needs for the program. The goal is for the program to expand to the Las Cruces Public Schools.

"Both the Gadsden and Las Cruces schools are in an area that is in dire need of economic development and has tremendous industrial growth potential. The skilled labor force required by area employers is not available, resulting in fewer new companies coming to the region," said Anthony Hyde, director of the NMSU Manufacturing and Technology Center, and Jerry Welch, DABCC division dean.

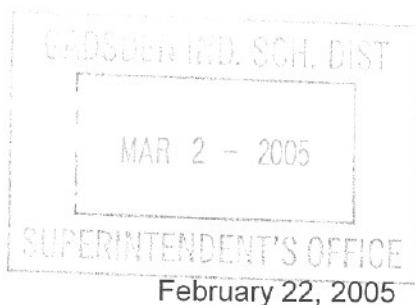
Governor Richardson is fully behind the program. "This program complements our efforts to create high-wage jobs, particularly in the border region. We're cutting taxes, improving our schools and investing in New Mexico entrepreneurship. We need trained technicians to fill the jobs we are creating," Governor Richardson said.

Reese Fullerton, executive director of the Governor's new Office of Workforce Training and Development, said, "By being quick and flexible we can respond to business needs and prepare the workforce to fill immediate job openings."



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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Superintendent Roger Parks
Gadsden Independent School
1325 West Washington
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Dear Friend of NMSU:

On behalf of the New Mexico State University Social Justice Committee, I invite you to attend the first J. Paul Taylor Symposium on Social Justice on March 30 and 31, 2005. The J. Paul Taylor Symposium on Social Justice is a series of events that is intended to challenge NMSU to examine our role in society and to work toward social justice in partnership with our community. This effort was inspired by a conversation with former legislator and community leader, J. Paul Taylor, and bears his name to honor his many years of tireless work to secure justice for families and children in New Mexico. As a community leader who is concerned with the guidance and education of youth, you are a crucial stakeholder in this on-going effort. Please extend this invitation to young people, colleagues, and community members who would like to join in the symposium.

This year's symposium focuses on the work of Luis J. Rodriguez, the author of *Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.* An international bestseller which has won numerous national literary awards, the memoir was written as a cautionary tale for Rodriguez's then 15-year old son Ramiro, who had joined a Chicago gang. In a more recent work, *Hearts and Hands: Creating Community in Violent Times*, Rodriguez offers a set of values and a framework for working collaboratively with youth and their families for social change. One of the leading Chicano writers in the country, with eight nationally published books in memoir, children's literature and poetry, Rodriguez is also well known for his work with youth and community organizations that strive to combat violence, and has spent over twenty years conducting workshops, readings and talks in prisons, juvenile facilities, homeless shelters, migrant camps, schools, universities, Native American reservations and men's retreats. The enclosure provides additional information about Rodriguez's work, which we hope you will share with others.

The Symposium includes the following public events:

- Wednesday, March 30, 3:30-5:00 p.m.: Meeting with the Gang Task Force Initiative Members in the Senate Gallery of Corbett Center, NMSU
- Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.: Reading at the Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court Avenue
- Thursday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.: Public talk based on *Hearts and Hands*, at the Music Recital Hall, NMSU

All the events are free of charge. For further information, please contact Maria Stops (522-0399/526-1310), Laura Gutierrez Spencer (646-4206) or Lisa Bond-Maupin (646-5386/646-2371). Seating is limited. We hope that you will be able to join us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael V. Martin".

Michael V. Martin
President

Luis Rodriguez

Luis J. Rodriguez has emerged as one of the leading Chicano writers in the country with eight nationally published books in memoir, children's literature and poetry. Rodriguez's poetry has won a Poetry Center Book Award, a PEN Josephine Miles Literary Award, and *Foreward* magazine's Silver Book Award, among others. His two children's books have won a Patterson Young Adult Book Award, two Skipping Stones Honor Award, and a Parent's Choice Book Award, among others.

Luis Rodriguez is best known for the 1993 memoir of gang life, *Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.* An international best seller, the memoir also garnered a Carl Sandburg Literary Award, a Chicago Sun-Times Book Award, and was designated a *New York Times* "Notable Book". Written as a cautionary tale for Rodriguez's then 15-year-old son Ramiro—who had joined a Chicago gang—the memoir is popular among youth and teachers. Despite this, the American Library Association in 1999 called *Always Running* one of the ten most censored books in the United States. Efforts to remove his books from public school libraries and reading lists have occurred in Illinois, Michigan, Texas, and more recently in California, where the battles were quite heated.

Yet for all the controversy, Luis Rodriguez has gained the respect of the literary community. In addition to the above honors, he has received a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writers' Award, a Lannan Fellowship for Poetry, a Hispanic Heritage Award for Literature, a National Association for Poetry Therapy Public Service Award, a Premio Fronterizo, an Illinois Author of the Year Award, a California Arts Council fellowship and several Illinois Arts Council fellowships.

An accomplished poet, Luis Rodriguez is the author of three collections of poetry: *Poems Across the Pavement* (Tia Chucha Press), *The Concrete River* (Curbstone Press), and *Trochemoche* (Curbstone Press).

His books for children, *America Is Her Name* and *It Doesn't Have To Be This Way: A Barrio Story* are published in both English and Spanish.

Luis Rodriguez is also known for helping start a number of prominent organizations—such as Chicago's *Guild Complex*, one of the largest literary arts organizations in the Midwest, and its publishing wing, Tia Chucha Press. He is also one of the founders of *Youth Struggling for Survival*, a Chicago-based not-for-profit community group working with gang and non-gang youth. He helped start *Rock A Mole* (rhymes with guacamole) *Productions*, which produces music/arts festivals, CDs, and film in Los Angeles. In 2002, in collaboration with *Rock A Mole* producer Ernie Perez, Rodriguez released his first CD of poems and music titled *My Name's Not Rodriguez*. Presently Rodriguez and his wife Trini have helped create and run *Tia Chucha's Café Cultural*—a bookstore, coffee shop, performance space, art gallery, and computer center in the northeast San Fernando Valley of Southern California.

Luis Rodriguez has spent over twenty years conducting workshops, readings, and talks in prisons, juvenile facilities, homeless shelters, migrant camps, universities, public and private schools, conferences, Native American reservations, and men's retreats throughout the United States. He has also traveled to Canada, Europe, Mexico, Central America, and Puerto Rico doing similar work among disaffected populations.

In addition, Luis Rodriguez has been part of the Mosaic Multicultural Foundation's Men's Conferences since 1994 with Mosaic founder Michael Meade, West African teacher-elder Malidoma Some, South Central LA youth advocate and healer Orland Bishop and American Buddhist Jack Kornfield. At these conferences, the complex but vital issues of race, class, gender, and personal and social rage are addressed with dialogue, ritual, story, poetry, song, and art involving men of all walks of life, including those in urban street gangs.

In May 2001, Rodriguez became one of fifty individuals from around the world to be recognized as an *Unsung Hero of Compassion*, an honor bestowed on him by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Luis Rodriguez's work has also been widely anthologized, including in *Letters of a Nation: A Collection of Extraordinary American Letters* (Broadway Books/Kodansha American), *The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry* (Thunder's Mouth Press), and most recently in *Bum Rush the Page* (Three Rivers Press). His poems and articles have appeared in college and high school textbooks throughout the United States and Europe. He has done radio productions and writing for L.A.'s KPFK-FM, California Public Radio as well as Chicago's WMAQ-AM's All-News radio and WBEZ-FM. And his writings have appeared over the last twenty years in *The Nation*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *L.A. Weekly*, *Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine*, *San Jose Mercury*, *Grand Street*, *Utne Reader*, *Prison Life*, *Rock & Rap Confidential*, among others.

Luis Rodriguez's most recent books are *Hearts and Hands: Creating Community in Violent Times* (Seven Stories Press) and a short story collection, *The Republic of East LA : Stories* (Rayo Books/HarperCollins). Forthcoming in the Spring of 2005 is Luis Rodriguez's first novel, *Music of the Mill* (Rayo Books/HarperCollins).